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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

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Volume 19, Number 44

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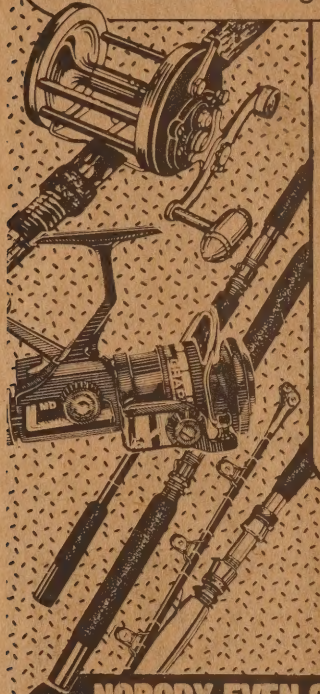

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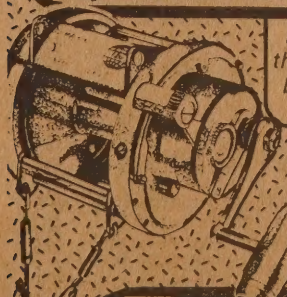

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND. METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 19, Number 44 November 1st, 1984

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ABOUT THE COVER:

The three top winners of the New York Surf Bluefish Derby held on Saturday and Sunday, October 20 and 21, pose with sponsors of the event at awards ceremony following Sunday's fishing. Standing from left to right are Dave Booth-Genesee Brewing, Michael Mazzatta-First Place Winner, Bill Muller-The Fisherman, John Fritz-Second Place Winner, Thomas Plunkett-Third Place Winner. Kneeling are Michael Asheroff-Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission, Noel Kauppauf-Captree Bait Station. For more on the contest, turn to page 4.

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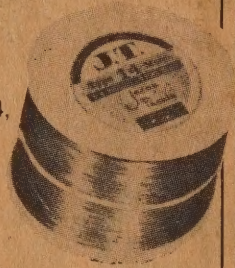

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WINNERS OF NEW YORK SURF BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

Winners of the 1984 New York Surf Bluefish Tournament, held on Saturday and Sunday, October 20 and 21, were: 1st place—Michael Mazzatta, Deer Park, 16 lb. 4 oz. blue; 2nd place—John Fritz, Deer Park, 15 lb. 14 oz. blue; 3rd place—Thomas Plunkett, Bohemia, 15 lb. 12 oz. blue. Cash prizes of 500, 250 and 100 dollars were awarded to the top three finishers. A complete listing of all winning anglers will appear in next week's issue of The Fisherman along with a follow-up article on the event. This year's sponsors and organizers, The Fisherman Magazine, DuPont Stren Line, Genesee Brewing, Jet-Aer Corp. (G-96 Products), Captree Bait Station and the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission are already planning ahead for next year. Over 300 surfcasters competed in this year's inaugural contest which took place within state boundaries between Jones Beach and Robert Moses State Park.

HOUSE APPROVES WETLANDS PROTECTION BILL

The coast of Long Island has been blessed with an abundance of productive wetlands. While many once considered them of little value, their worth as spawning grounds for finfish and shellfish has long been established. In a very real sense, they are the birthplace of one of the region's oldest industries, and one that continues to play a major role in the region's economy.

Across the nation, wetlands sustain a commercial and recreational fishery harvest measured in the billions of dollars annually. It's hard to put a price on this, but these areas also provide essential resting, wintering and nesting grounds for waterfowl and other birds.

We've known all this for quite some time now. But even so, our wetlands are vanishing at an alarming rate. At one time in our history, the U.S. boasted some 215 million wetland acres. Today, only half of that remains and we're losing an additional 485,000 acres each year. To put it another way, wetland areas twice the size of New Jersey disappeared during a 20 year study period covered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study.

There are federal programs in place to stem this continuing loss, but the need for additional assistance has become so acute in recent years that the House of Representatives last week approved new legislation to set aside additional funding for wetlands preservation. I had no hesitations in supporting this worthwhile bill.

HR 3082, the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act, will provide the much-needed aid by raising the price hunters pay for a federal waterfowl permit—more commonly called a duck stamp—and by placing new fees to enter some national wildlife refuges. The money will be used to step up the effort of placing wetlands under public control, or to gain conservation easements. Over 30 years ago, the federal government set a goal of joining with individual states to protect 12.5 million acres of waterfowl habitat. To date, we are still 1.6 million acres short of the federal share.

The bill provides much-needed assistance to protect a valuable national resource, and it does so on a pay-as-you-go basis.

OAKDALE SPORTSMENS CLUB EXTENDS THANKS TO LOCAL LEGISLATORS

The Oakdale Sportsmen's Club would like to take this opportunity to thank the following legislators: William Bianchi, Pat Halpin, Paul Harenberg, John Dunne, Caesar Trunzo, Owen Johnson, and Tom Downey for their support and interest in legislation affecting finfish management and the maximum utilization of our shellfish stocks.

We are also gratified by their activity in tidal wetlands acquisition and their continued concern about the condition of our marine environment.

A very special thanks to Pat Halpin and Owen Johnson for spearheading the striped bass legislation through the Assembly and Senate respectively and to Tom Downey for his interest in the stabilization of Fire Island Inlet.

BOATING SKILLS AND SAFETY COURSE

Flotilla 11-5 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has announced that once again they will render their famous public education Boating Skills and Safety course. This is the longest, and most practical 16 lesson course, as given by the Auxiliary. The course is geared to prepare the student for the new Coastal Piloting Course which is an advanced course in coastal navigation. Eleven different lecture type of lessons take the student from boat handling through radio-telephone communication. The last five lessons are devoted to the table-top working and physical aspect of the actual course plotting on nautical charts.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be well versed in safety afloat. Each lesson is of two-hour duration, and will commence on Tuesday, February 5, 1985, at 8PM, at the beautiful Diamond Point Yacht Club, 1350 Paerdegat Ave., in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, NY. Lessons are every Tuesday evening until the conclusion, sometime in June. The course is free. To those

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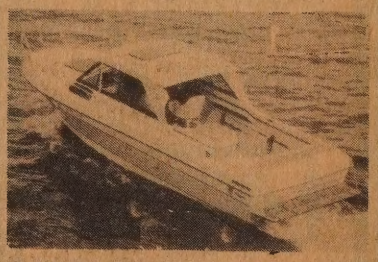

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students wishing to be supplied with course materials, a slight fee will be charged to cover the cost of supplies. Remember, anyone over the age of 12 is welcome. After the course is concluded, two post-graduate lessons are offered, dealing with compass calibration on your boat, an introduction to Loran C, and how to buy a safe boat at the conclusion of the class. Those students who satisfactorily finish the course, a handsome diploma, supplied by the U.S. Coast Guard will be issued.

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MCA DINNER DANCE SLATED FOR NOV. 3RD

The Montauk Captains Association will hold their annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 3rd at Ruchmeyers Hotel, Montauk, on Second House Road. Installation of new officers will take place that night as well.

For further information, call Capt. Jack Mangano at (516) 265-2696.

LOST AND FOUND

Fisherman reader Pete Martin was pleased to report that the two surf bags he lost at West End Two, Jones Beach a few weeks back were returned by another reader named Ralph, who learned of Pete's plight through The Fisherman. Now Pete would like to even the score.

It seems that on Sunday, October 21st, while working a beach in the Riverhead area, he came across a well stocked tackle box that another angler had inadvertently left behind. If you can identify the box, give Pete a call at 679-9021.

TEMPRESS 1985 CATALOG FEATURES NEW ALL-WEATHER SEATS AND FISH-ON ACCES.

The 1985 catalog from Tempress, Inc., manufacturer of the FISH-ON!® line of sporting goods and marine products, features a new format that serves as a complete reference to the Company's new and established lines. Every catalog is also a source of camera-ready line art and ad slicks for distributors and dealers.

Among the new products highlighted in the catalog are several additions to the popular All-Weather Seat System—including a Hunter's Seat with camouflage pad, accessory armrests, new gray and green seat colors; Rod Holders designed for flush deck, side, or rail mounting; and a unique accessory mounting kit which provides leak, vibration and impact resistant fastening.

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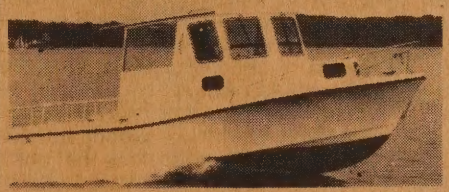

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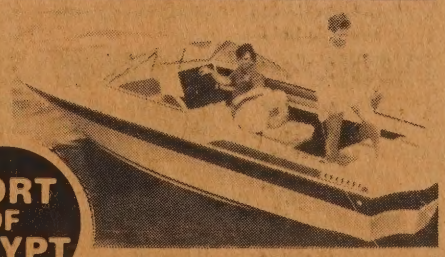

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STRIPED BASS TOURNAMENTS: SHOULD THEY CONTINUE?

by Dick Russell

A movement away from contests that promote the taking of large numbers of stripers appears to have the support of most recreational anglers.

As concern has intensified this year over the disastrous decline of the striped bass, the conscience of the fisherman has taken on an importance that transcends whatever management measures are taken by the Atlantic states and the Federal Government. Take those venerable institutions, the striper fishing tournaments. With a fish in as much trouble as the bass, can tournament sponsors still justify awarding cash prizes and trophies?

The numbers of large stripers, the very ones which carry the tournament bounties, have never been in such short supply. Only *ten percent* of the bass observed by scientists last spring on the Chesapeake Bay spawning grounds were old enough to spawn at all. The big females had been largely fished out along the coast. Now, an emergency moratorium in Maryland will protect the small pre-spawning fish as of January 1st. How can fishermen elsewhere not seek to do their part by protecting the mature females?

Even before Maryland declared its moratorium, many tournaments had already seen the necesssity of taking such a step. The Fisherman Tournament stopped recognizing stripers for prizes; instead offering an award for catch-and-release. The Cape May, New Jersey tournament ended a 40-year tradition by removing the bass from its award category. The Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament and the Nantucket, Mass. Anglers Club took similar action.

As Dan Kelliher, a spokesman for the 460 Nantucket Anglers members put it, "True, we're a fishing club, but we're conservation minded, too. We thought this might be one way to help give the bass a shot, setting an example at the grassroots level."

In my own summer fishing grounds off Martha's Vineyard, it was a different story. There, last May, by a slim margin the Derby Committee had voted to keep the striper in its 39th annual competition. The minimum size limit for entry was raised to 30 inches, but that was the Committee's only concession to the stripers' plight. A 30 inch fish, after all, is hardly prize-winning size.

At the time of the Derby Committee's vote, I was still in Boston, concentrating my own efforts through the Striped Bass Emergency Council on the Federal legislation that had just been introduced. But as tournament time drew near, I felt strongly that a statement about the Vineyard Derby's attitude had to be made. So I began a petition drive, asking that the striper be removed from the fall contest.

By late August, over 1,200 people—primarily Vineyard citizens and summer residents—had added their names to the petition. The island Chamber of Commerce and the Derby Committee chastised the petition as coming "too late." Commitments had already been made with sponsors, literature had already been printed. Besides, they said, why should they be made the scapegoats for the bass' decline? The problem lay elsewhere, with pollution and commercial fishing.

At meeting after meeting over the past several years, I had been hearing this same argument: "It's not our fault, it's those other guys." The point, as far as I was concerned, was simply that there was one right thing to do. It was a moral question. The striper was disappearing, and how could you still sanction putting a price on its head? Besides, if the prestigious Vineyard Derby would help set an example of leadership, it would be more than just a symbolic gesture. It would, in fact, contribute to the possibility that more spawning fish could make it home to the Chesapeake next spring. In these times, every bass counts. That is the tragic reality.

Clearly, I was not the only person who felt this way. But the Chamber and Committee informed me it was useless to even accept the petition at such a late juncture; they were not going to change their minds. They could still have had a major tournament without the bass, of course. Other prize categories for bluefish, bonito and false albacore could easily have been expanded. This was the growing consensus of public opinion as the Derby's mid-September starting date drew near.

In an editorial titled "The Hunt Must End," the *Vineyard Gazette* noted: "The derby must not wait for another year's competition before deciding to reverse its present position on the striped bass. The striper must come out of the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, and the quicker the better ...."

The *Boston Globe* took a strong editorial position as well. "Because of its eminence, the derby could focus substantial publicity on the plight of the striper by an eleventh hour decision to remove bass from the contest," wrote the *Globe*. Just because the entry forms for '84 were already printed, the newspaper continued, "That is a poor excuse not to do the right thing."

Letters to the editor of the Vineyard newspaper were even stronger. Peter B. Greenough, the husband of opera singer Beverly Sills and a long-time Derby participant, wrote: 'Festooned on an ancient fishing cap of mine are, or were, some 30 buttons marking the various years I have fished in the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby. Suddenly, last week, five fell off. They had rusted out. Perhaps the cap was trying to convey something to me. Like: Do not fish in the derby this year! And I won't. Call it a boycott, perhaps. I think the gutless members of the derby committee and of the Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce need their heads examined, as well as their consciences... I have thrown away my venerable cap, somewhat in disgust."

The Derby Committee, however, was clearly not going to budge from its stance despite the pressure from irate citizens. In the remarkable wave of publicity that followed upon the petition drive, Committee representatives sought to portray the issue as a personal vendetta against them by this writer. The ridiculousness of this assertion became clear the week the Derby began. A full page advertisement appeared on September 14 in the *Vineyard Gazette*. It was supported and sponsored by more than 50 striper fishermen and conservationists from all along the coast. It was titled "The Striped Bass: A Plea for Release."

"At the least," the ad said, 'the Derby should promote a catch-and-release program for 1984. If you do choose to participate in the Derby, why not release any bass that does not have a chance to win the grand prize? Why not forsake the daily bass prizes altogether? Last year, 246

striped bass were brought to the Derby weigh-in station. Only a handful of these had a real chance to win the trophy. Why not let the others go, and give them a chance to return to their spawning grounds? How can we, as sport fishermen, expect commercial fishermen to curtail their livelihood unless we make a personal sacrifice ourselves on behalf of the bass?" . . .

The ad's signatories included seven former grand prize winners in the Derby's striper category, as well as such noted individuals as Curt Gowdy, Spider Andresen, John Cole, George Reiger, Congresswoman Claudine Schneider, and many more. And it included an important section titled: "How to Release Your Bass."

"If you use bait (live or otherwise), it is impossible to release a bass unharmed because it often swallows the hook.

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"Bring your bass in gently, but as quickly as possible. If you do not have a net on board, gaff the fish in the lower jaw (lip gaff). Do not put your fingers in the gills. Place your thumb in the bass' mouth and press down on its tongue (bass have no teeth). Your bass will stop moving and you can take the hooks out easily with your hands. You will be amazed, and in awe, to observe how calm your bass becomes before you set it free. The joy of bass fishing, after all, is in your own pursuit and skill. The real satisfaction comes in the catching, not the keeping."

The Derby weigh-in station refused to allow a brochure, printed along the same lines as the ad, to be left there for fishermen. But apparently, many fishermen did see it and took the suggestions to heart. By midway through the Derby, a poll of numerous fishermen showed that many had stopped bass fishing altogether, that stripers were being released in far greater numbers, and that other Derby entrants were no longer competing for daily striper winner prizes.

Dick Hathaway of Edgartown, a three time grand prize winner in the striper category, spoke for many: "I don't think it is right to catch striped bass any more. I don't think the Derby should give daily prizes of $20 for catching a striped bass. Most of my friends feel that way. One fisherman released a 37 pound bass, because it wasn't a grand prize contender."

Everett (Porky) Francis, a Derby committee member who had voted to keep the bass in the competition earlier, added: "I would release any bass I caught, that I know isn't above the average. I'm not fishing for dailies. From what I can see, we will probably drop the bass from next year's Derby."

Said Clyde Omar, a former Derby committee member and operator of a fishing charter business: "I quit the Derby committee and I didn't enter the Derby this year because of the striped bass controversy." And charter skipper/tackle shop owner Jack Koontz said: "The bottom line is that every fisherman has to decide for himself, regardless of what the fishermen down the beach or in the next state are doing. It's down to a personal choice."

Everett Poole, of Poole's Fish Market in Menemsha Harbor, had an even more enlightening comment. "The whole length of the coast, people are laying off the striped bass. The demand is just less. It's not that there's that much bass around to drive down prices, but people are not interested in buying it or eating it. They're all charged up by these conservation measures, and it has absolutely dropped the price. It's not just here on the island. A lot of commercial markets are drying up and fishermen are now getting less than half what the striped bass was worth last year."

Yes, the conscience of the fisherman and even the marketplace indeed had been aroused. When the month-long Derby came to a close in mid-October, slightly more than 100 stripers had been weighed in. It was still too many, but substantially below the 246 of 1983. For next year, the smart money is that the striper will no longer be part of the Vineyard event. And just about anywhere you travel, catch-and-release is catching on.

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A BRAND NEW FISHERMAN

by Matt Ahern

A newcomer to the fishing game discovers what many of us were lucky enough to learn a long time ago.

During my recent convalescence, I received a multitude of letters, get-well cards, books, games, puzzles, plus many phone calls and other assorted goodies. These did exactly as intended: To let me know I was not alone, to while away the boring hours, and to keep me up-to-date on fishing scene activities. As I've said many, many times, there's no one quite like a fellow fisherman. I again thank each and every one.

One concerned fisherman posed a question I'd like to answer with the following story. Ray Wolfe of Shirley asked if I'd ever had an opportunity to "break" someone into the fishing game and if so, how did I go about it and what was the result. Except for kids, Mr. Wolfe concluded, he never had much luck and most times his would-be fishermen gave up discouraged.

Well, I can't give Mr. Wolfe much of an answer (too many unknown factors for me to attempt that). But I can tell him what occurred the last time Artie Leidecker and I fished with a "pilgrim."

One evening last December, long-time friend Bill Cronin visited me. He found me in the middle of filleting the codfish Artie and I had caught that morning.

"Those are big fish," Bill commented.

I told him they were just average-run cod of six to ten pounds.

"Maybe so," he replied, "but I sure wouldn't mind catching fish like that."

"Artie and I are going out again in the morning. You're welcome to come along."

I could see his eyes roaming over the larger cod.

"Fat chance I'd have against you guys. I never caught a fish in my life."

I shrugged my shoulders. "So? Every fisherman starts somewhere. Maybe you'll like it." When he hesitated, I quickly added: "You needn't worry about tackle; we've got plenty."

That did it; and 6:30 the next morning found the three of us making our way through Jones Inlet aboard Artie's "Echo."

As we approached the Jones Inlet bell buoy, we headed westerly. "We'll give the McAllister Grounds a try first," Artie told us. "We can always work offshore if necessary."

I had selected a light, yet stiff boat rod for Bill and to this I added a matching conventional reel filled with 30 pound test mono. For terminal tackle I tied on two 5/0 regular shanked Sproat hooks: one ten inches above an eight ounce bank sinker and the other, snelled on an 18 inch leader, three-and-a-half feet higher.

As we made our way over a quiet sea, Bill sat facing me as he tested the workings of the free-spool reel. I began to open our skimmer clam bait. "When we begin fishing, do exactly as we do. If you've got any questions, no matter how silly you think they are, don't hesitate to ask. You can't learn if you don't ask questions." I lay aside some cracked skimmers for chum and sliced each bait into two pieces. "Don't forget, if there are cod around, you'll get your share.

I don't know how Bill took that last bit of philisophy, for he sat quietly and watched Artie at the wheel. A half-hour later we arrived at McAllister.

When I had secured the anchor, I batted over a dozen or so cracked skimmer for chum and then picked up my rod.

"Let's go get 'em," Artie said as he sent his baited hooks to the bottom.

Bill followed suit. Seconds later I noticed him making tentative stabs with his rod. He gave me a questioning look.

"Bergalls," I told him. "You'll learn to live with them if you do much bottom fishing. Just let the bait lie still."

Suddenly he grunted. "Got something!"

I watched the strain and set of the rod, but it was no cod. "You've got a ling. Reel it in."

He lifted a fair-sized ling aboard, unhooked it without difficulty and dropped it into the plastic fish barrel. He watched it for several moments. "First fish I ever caught. How about that?"

Artie and I each winched a ling to the surface. "Go down and get another," I said. "Better yet, get a cod."

Twenty minutes passed by, during which several more ling came aboard. But no cod. I decided it was time to do a bit more chumming. I've found that some days cod will seize bait immediately upon anchoring, but most often they are slow when following chum to its source.

I was almost to the bow when Artie let out a whoop and set his hook into our first cod of the day. His rod strained against the cod's desperate attempts to regain the bottom, but slowly and surely it was reeled to the surface. I picked up the gaff and stuck it into a nice fish of about 12 pounds.

Encouraged now, we waited for the next cod to take hold. I was wishing for a cod for Bill when I felt that peculiar "drawback" cod make when they snuggle up to the bait. I counted five seconds, then reared back on the rod and drove the hook home. The rod bowed stiffly against the weight of the fish, forcing me to tighten my grip. The cod pounded heavily, stopping the reel cold.

I glanced quickly at Artie. "It's a good one."

The reel's drag setting grudgingly surrendered a few feet of line as the cod backed off, bringing its weight to bear on the rod tip. I'd gain a few feet, then promptly lose them. This tug-of-war went on for several minutes and then the cod suddenly tired, allowing me to carefully reel it up. I could see a large head and a glinting white belly undulating slowly in the depths. Easy 30 pounds, I told myself.

"Wow!" This from Bill as he watched Artie plant the gaff and lift the cod aboard. "What a fish!"

"Better watch your rod," Artie told him, removing the gaff and pushing the fish aside. "This one's got a mate down there somewhere."

I unhooked the cod and placed it in the barrel. Though not quite the 30 pounds I thought, it was the best I'd taken since the season started.

If the mate to my big cod was down there, we were having trouble catching it. After two hours of sporadic chumming our net result was two small cod, both caught by Artie, plus

a scattering of ling and a few disenchanted whiting.

Ordinarily, when fishing slows we pack it in, but as Bill had yet to get a cod, we decided to make a few drifts farther offshore.

We ran south for about a mile, heading for an area often worked by commercial skimmer men. It was known to us as "the broken skimmer bottom" and frequently produced good codfishing in early November. With Bill in mind, I silently paid homage to the fishing gods, requesting that they smile upon us.

We began our first drift. A light south wind and an incoming tide slowly moved us inshore. For ten minutes there wasn't a bit of action, except for two large dogfish which tickled Bill no end until he felt those two wicked horns. "I'm glad I didn't catch them, fellers," was his comment. But dogfish or no, the fact that they were in the surrounding area raised our hopes there might possibly be cod around.

My request to the fishing gods was answered. Bill came up on a fish and the rod took on a set only a cod can make.

"You've got him, Bill!" Artie said, picking up the gaff. "Let him pound. That's it. Just take him nice and slow. Easy does it."

I quickly reeled in, tossed over a marker buoy and stood by, offering words of encouragement. The cod stopped pumping, came along easily for a few feet, then started to pound again. Bill stopped reeling.

"Keep him coming," I coached. "You're doing fine." I looked down. Through the clear water, I caught a movement. "Here he comes! Don't give any slack!"

As my fish had done, the cod relaxed and docilely allowed itself to be reeled to the surface.

Artie leaned over and waited for the fish to get within gaffing distance. Then, quickly reaching down, he deftly impaled the cod through the head and lifted it aboard.

"Twenty-five pounds if it's an ounce!" he proclaimed, slapping the happy yet startled fisherman on the back. "You've got your first cod, feller. It's a beaut!"

Bill's face was glowing. "Honest, fellers," he said, "I never thought I'd...I never thought...look at the size of that fish! Jeeze."

We returned to the marker buoy, anchored near it, chummed a bit, but without success. We finally decided to call it quits.

Bill picked up his cod and hefted it. "You guys going fishing tomorrow?"

I shook my head. "Not till next week."

"Good."

"Good? After that fish I figured you'd want to go again right away."

"I sure do, but with my own tackle. As long as you aren't fishing tomorrow, you can have the honor of picking out an outfit for me. You guys are stuck with a brand-new fisherman."

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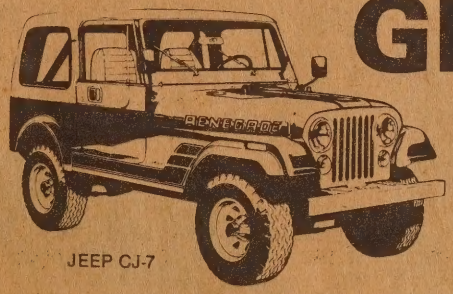

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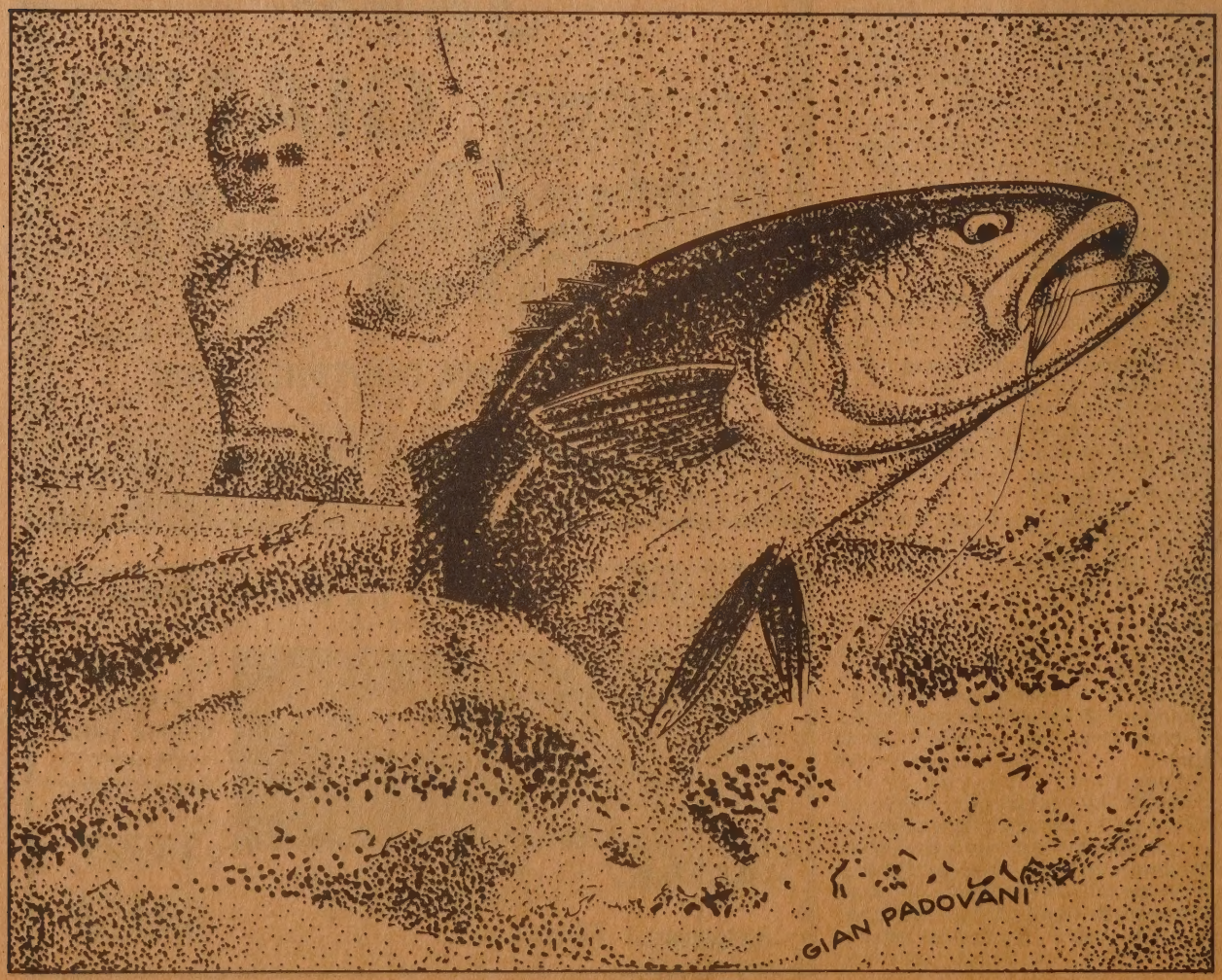
BLUEFISH ON A FLY: THE ULTIMATE SPORT

by Gian Padovani

This wonderful gamester is a favorite target of the salt water fly rod set.

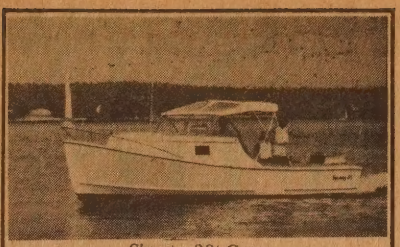
"Heck, and you call yourself a sportsman?" he said, "Why, it's like shooting quail with an elephant gun!" I looked at my tackle and felt a little embarrassed, but I had to admit he was right. We had been talking about the merits of various game fish and my friend Bob Rapuano, a fanatic fly fisher, insisted that the only way to feel victorious was to subdue a fish with the lightest of tackle. I replied that overgunning your game had the advantage of putting an animal out of its misery quickly and insisted that a sportsman worthy of that title would dispatch his quarry as painlessly as possible. At that, Bob conceded that I was partially right if speaking about the **average** sportsman, but wrong when speaking about a **good** one. Finally he concluded with "If you are a good marksman, there is no reason why you couldn't bring a deer down, with a properly placed 22. caliber bullet...or a big fish with a fly rod." It was useless arguing, but it inspired me to try. The next day I launched my boat out of the Bluff in Kings Park and headed into Smithtown Bay "fully armed" with my freshwater spinning rod and a few plugs. This was my standard 6 foot rod that I used for largemouth bass and I felt confident using it but, as a safety measure, I also included my reliable "bluefish rod," a veteran of many big choppers. It was a gorgeous day, with an enamel blue sky over flat water and the fall air added an extra crispness to the day. I headed my 16 footer northbound and shortly after whizzing by Crane's Neck, I spotted gulls working over fish. It was the middle of the week and I practically owned the Sound, so I wasn't concerned about other boats or fishermen; that school of blues was all mine. I could see from the birds' flight that the choppers were moving toward my direction, so I killed the engine and tensely waited for the first fish to approach within casting distance. I had rigged up a popper on a short wire leader and 8 pound test line and when I felt it was time, I cast and began chugging the lure back. It all happened so fast, I practically went into shock: there was



a swirl, a feeling of power, and my line went limp. Before the end of that morning, I lost practically all of my lures to sharp teeth, and had nothing to show for it. I did bring home a couple of 10 pounders but, you guessed it, victims of my "killer" rod. This incident happened a few years ago and since that time I've become an enthusiastic fly fisherman. A fishing trip upstate New York for steelhead, convinced me that a fly rod was indeed one of the deadliest fishing sticks ever devised. In Florida and other southern states, a fly rod is THE rod for bonefish and tarpon and other inshore species as well. Since that episode with the bluefish I have sold my boat and so I was thrilled when my friend Gene Chiusano invited me to join him for a bluefish trip. When we met at the dock, he didn't question my fly rod but couldn't help remarking "You're gonna have some fun with that toy!" I ignored the remark and loaded my tackle and lunch aboard the new 20 footer. The use of a fly rod and flies is not thoroughly understood or appreciated by too many saltwater anglers. Many consider it a toy to be used strictly in freshwater. Yet, it is interesting to note that some of the deadliest lures for saltwater use are the so-called "Jap feathers" and the various jigs. No self-respecting fisherman would consider leaving such standards behind when angling for tuna, bonito, bluefish and weakfish. But remove the leadheads from these lures and you have streamers and bucktails, oversized perhaps when compared to those used for trout, but used for the same purpose nevertheless. I will admit that the average fly rod is not a tool for the "meat fisherman" since the delicate equipment does not allow a fish to be hooked and hauled aboard as with conventional equipment. But, for pure sport, a fly rod represents the supreme tool. In capable hands it can be as deadly as any other tackle. I have stood on rocky jetties in the company of other anglers using spinning equipment, and outfished them with my fly rod. The scorn on these fishermen promptly changed to disbelief when the snappers went ape over my fly in preference to spoons, spinners and bait.

Gene moors his boat in Shirley, so we headed for the brine out of Moriches Inlet. Once out in the open sea I discovered a fact which destroyed any hope of fly casting: Gene had been unable to procure any chum and that meant either trolling or jigging. My plan of casting to a school of blues attracted by the chum to casting distance had dissipated. We had rigged our trolling rods and so we spent most of the day catching only a couple of bonito. To make things worse, clouds had massed around the sky and all signs indicated that a storm was brewing. I had totally forgotten about my fly rod, excluding it for this type of fishing and resigned to try it some other time. Gene suggested we should head back, and after reeling in we headed back home. Once within sight of the inlet, Gene suggested I should get my "toy" ready since small schools of bluefish were usually in the habit of hanging around the breakers. I had tied a half dozen flies in a couple of sizes and patterns on a size four hook, not too difficult to cast them with my 9 foot, 8 wgt. rod. I chose a Platinum Blonde fly, an all white pattern, ribbed with silver tinsel and tied it on a 30 lb. shock tippet. The more practical Gene chose a spinning rod and a Hopkins, on which he had replaced the treble hook with a single one. We silenced the engine just within sight of the breakers and began casting in a silence broken only by milling terns and the sound of the surf breaking into a mist on the shore. Notwithstanding the wind which made it hard work, I kept on casting and retrieving the fly with foot-long pulls, my mind a blank, savoring the atomized water.

Riding the crest of a wave can be an exhilarating experience but the proximity of the shoreline made for some uneasy moments. When Gene cranked the engine and headed the boat back out to deeper water, I breathed a little easier. "Let's try another run" he said and once more we began to drift with the waves. I was using a sinking tip line and this forced me to strip it as close as possible to the boat to facilitate the pick-up. A few drops had begun to fall and I was expecting Gene to inform me to pack it up for the day, when my rod was almost yanked out of my hands. This was it! "Here we go!" I shouted, and as Gene turned around to see, a fish smashed into his lure. My bluefish made a run towards the shoreline, but as the water pressure on its back diminished, it shot upward and out in a trout-like leap. I held my rod as high as possible and the fiberglass arc slowed the fish enough for me to regain some line. To this day I can recall the bruises on my knee caps as I tried to balance myself against the sides of the bouncing boat. Gene had already boated his fish and prudently started the engine. My fish was stubbornly holding on but with the boat drifting toward it, I kept on gaining line so that once on top of the fish I was able to lift it aboard with one heave. Gene threw the clutch into forward and with rain pouring all over our faces, we shot out for "one more run." I do not have to elaborate to anyone who fishes that with the fish in such a cooperative mood, we had several "one more run" and "one more cast" before the crash of thunder and the flash of lightning sent us back into the safety of the bay and of the dock. We had caught a total of seven bluefish, averaging around 6 lbs., with Gene ahead of me by one fish. Considering the circumstances, I felt pretty satisfied with my catch and wondered if my old friend Bob would've approved or considered my feat as only "a quail brought down by a...deer gun."



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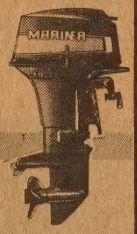

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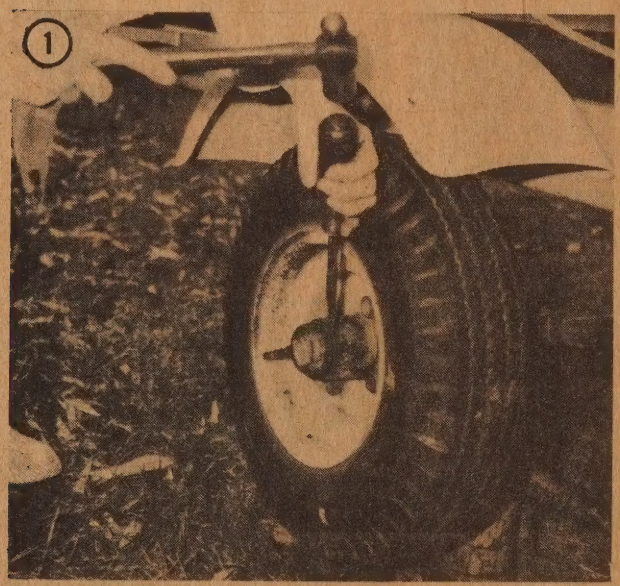
Service Guide To WHEEL BEARINGS

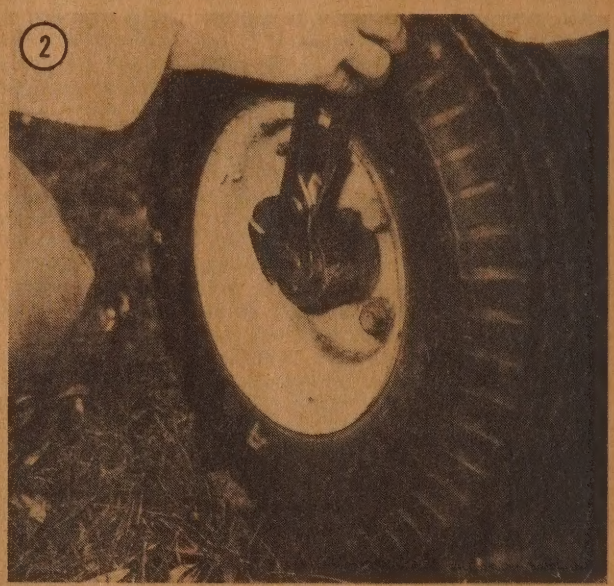
by Preston Lightsey

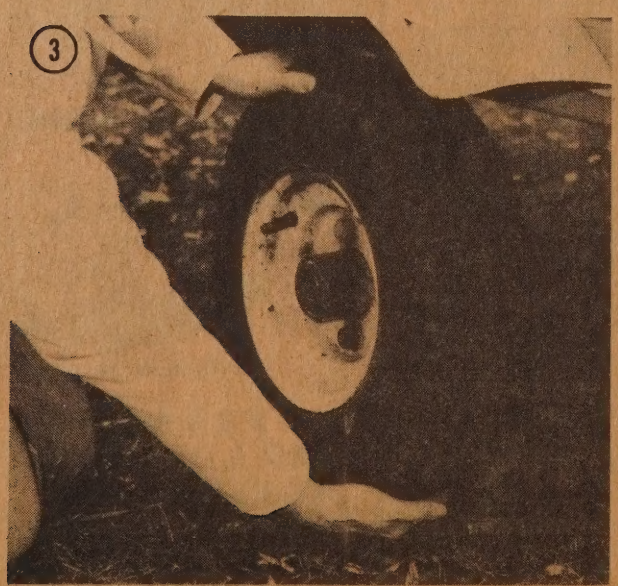
From the people who say things, once upon a time came the phrase "The longest march in the world was started with one step." That's true, you know, for so many times jobs are put off because our minds are made up to the fact that the job is too time-consuming or difficult beyond our personal capabilities or knowledge. Yet if the effort is made to take that first step to get started, many tasks are completed quickly and relatively easily.

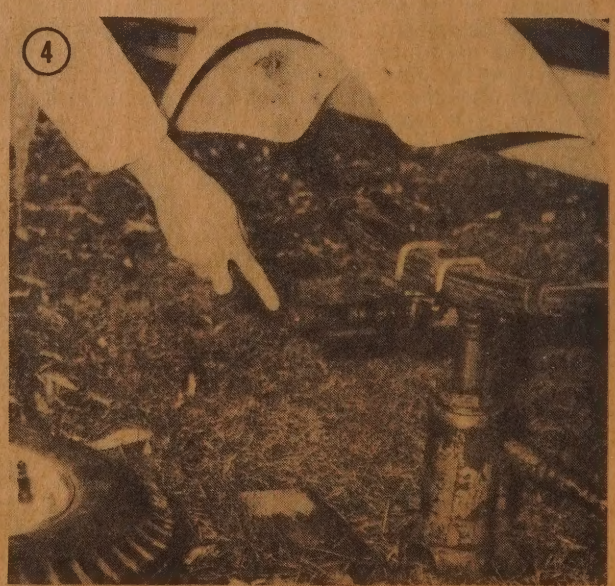
Now what this is all about is bearings, wheel bearings actually, boat trailer wheel bearings to be exact. A lot of people do not understand bearings, they think repairs or servicing can only be done by a mechanic in an auto garage or boat repair shop. This is quite evident by the amount of people you see along the side of the pavement on any of our super highways heading to the launch ramps. Over the years I've seen dozens on the shoulder of the Mass. Pike with the trailer axle jammed in the dust and the wheel in their hand. All of this misery could have been avoided with a little preventive maintenance that just about anyone can do.

Servicing wheel bearings is easy, anyone can do it in 15 minutes per wheel for a preventive maintenance check and less than 30 minutes if the









bearings and seal must be replaced. Even though cleaning, greasing and adjusting wheel bearings is easy, if you understand some facts about them, the work you do will make more sense. The prime job of a wheel bearing is to reduce the friction created by the rotating wheel against the non-rotating axle while supporting the trailer weight. The components of all roller bearings are merely a hardened inner and outer race with rollers in-between. All the bearing requires to ensure continued dependable service is a little clean lubrication and some clearance between the rollers and races. The clearance is required so when the heat from turning causes all the parts to expand, these parts will not crush themselves together.

Photo One: Block the trailer so it won't roll, then jack up one wheel. Remove the dust cover by GENTLY tapping a screwdriver between the cover rib and the hub.

Photo Two: Remove the cotter pin and then the nut. Pliers are good enough because the nut is never tight.

Photo Three: Just give the tire a yank and the entire unit will pull off. The outer bearing will just fall out in your hand.

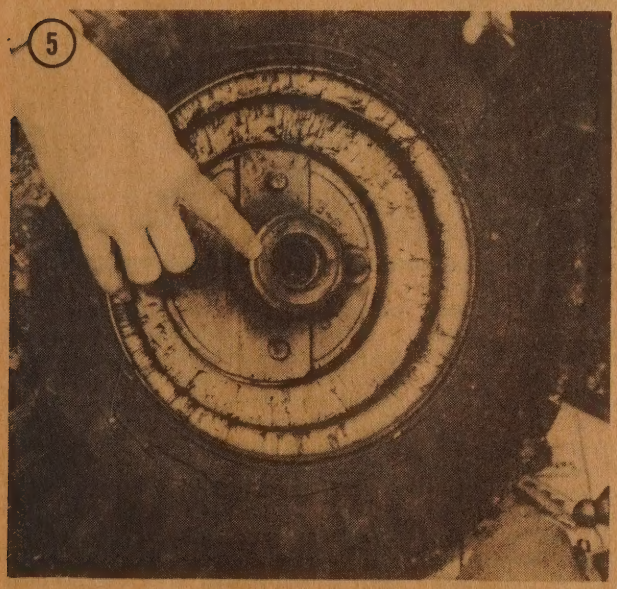
Photo Four: Wipe the grease off the axle with a rag and inspect it for rust or damage. If the seal area is rusty, simply smooth it out with some fine emery cloth.

Photo Five: Visually inspect the seal for damage. If it looks in good shape, the grease is clean and there is no water in the bearing of the wheel, it does not have to be removed. Use your finger to smear some new grease on the rollers of the bearing under the seal.

Photo Six: If the seal or inboard bearing must be changed, turn the wheel over and drive the inner race of the bearing, from the wheel, with a long bolt. This will bring the seal right along with it. Never use a hardened drift or punch because it may splinter off a piece of steel and hurt you or the bearing.

Photo Seven: Wash all the parts in kerosene, then inspect the bearing rollers for pitting or damage. If all the parts are not mirror smooth, replace them. If the rollers (cone) are replaced, then the outer race (cup) must be replaced also. Everything for one wheel can be purchased in a NAPA store for $17.98. Ask for kit #7453048.

Photo Eight: The main thing to remember in bearing work is cleanliness. Pack the bearing with wheel bearing grease and re-assemble everything in reverse order. Tighten the nut very tight, as you turn the wheel, until friction can actually be felt as the wheel is turning, THEN BACK OFF THE NUT ONE FLAT (this is one-sixth of a turn). This gives the required clearance between the rollers and races. Install the cotter pin, dust cover and you're ready for the road.



GILGO'S CHOICE

by John Fritz

Autumn is the season when bottom fishermen in the Cedar-Gilgo area have their best opportunity to beach meaningful game fish. Bluefish and striped bass comprise the bulk of the fish taken, with a migrating weakfish occasionally showing an interest in the bait. We can discount the sporadic weakfish; I don't believe anyone fishes specifically for them at this time. This leaves area surfmen with the choice of taking teen-sized bluefish during the day or concentrating their efforts on beaching a trophy-sized striper by fishing after dark. This is not to say that either species cannot be taken during the alternate periods. Local surfmen are aware that, in recent years, the percentages are greater if one follows the rule, to fish under the moon for bass and the sun for bluefish.

Having stated that there are exceptions, disappointingly few in the past year or so, let us continue on the premise that there is a distinct differentiation in whether one prefers blues or striped bass. If an angler desires action, repeated bouts with muscle-straining bluefish which frequently push the magic 20 pound mark, then dawn to dusk is the time. In the opposite vein, he can choose to seek that infrequent striped bass by fishing at night, when success is achieved, he will have a prize worthy of admiration.

The equipment used for either plan of action is similar, except that a few modifications should be made in the terminal rig; basically wire leaders for blues and mono for bass. Sturdy 11½ foot rods equipped with a reel similar to the Penn 706 is standard fare for oceanfront bottom fishing. Occasionally, an angler will be found using a 13 foot stick, but this is not necessary when fishing under the usual conditions encountered in the south shore surf. In recent years, more and more baitfishermen are reverting back to conventional gear, the alleged reason for doing so is to maintain a better feel of the fish. If an angler is capable of using a revolving spool reel, he requires no advice from me on his choice of tackle. At any rate, 15 lb. test line is considered minimum with 20 lb. test line the overall choice when casting 5 or 6 ounce sinkers plus a sizeable chunk of bait.

In almost every instance it is advisable to maintain the terminal rig in place without too much drifting. Normal conditions, in this area, call for 5 ounces of pyramid sinker. This is increased to 6 ounces in rough seas, but if this does not hold bottom, it would be better to try two 3-ounce sinkers, rather than using a single sinker of greater weight. It seems that the increased surface area of two sinkers is less likely to roll on the sandy bottom.

Sal Caccavele drags ashore a teen-size blue that took a mackerel chunk.

The sand spike is one other article of equipment common to either approach to the Gilgo surf. In recent years an increasing number of oceanfront baitfishermen are opting for the 3 or 4 foot sand spikes. The advantages of using such a spike, particularly when encountering any appreciable surf, far outweighs the burden of lugging a bulky piece of equipment. The additional height afforded by these spikes can be the difference between a line swept into the beach or a terminal rig that remains where it is cast.

Even though some anglers will fish bottom at night using only the neck light, relying instead on the reel's click or background lighting to indicate a pick-up, serious bottom fishermen will be seen using a Coleman lantern to illuminate their rod tips. Along the ocean beaches it is not so important to keep the bright light from shining into the water, but when seeking wary bass it couldn't hurt. A take down, which has the rod's tip straining towards the horizon, needs little more to alert an angler standing nearby. It is when the mighty predator toys with the bait, like a bashful bride, that the tips of the rods should show up as they would under a noonday sun.

There was a season, a few years back, when bluefish developed a taste for live eels. During that particular fall, it was the number one bait in the Cedar-Gilgo area. Thankfully they have since resumed a more reasonable craving; that is chunks or slices of bunker and mackerel.

Although stripers will occasionally accept cut bait, these anglers specifically seeking bass tend to choose live eels. Sure they are more troublesome to obtain, transport and store, place on the hook, keep on the hook in a presentable manner and finally it is more difficult to hook a fish that has taken a live eel. Weighted against all obstacles is the fact that eels are the most productive bait for cow bass. Some veteran surfmen try to cover as many angles as possible by fishing with two rods—one baited with cut bait and the other offering a live eel.

Those anglers unfamiliar with the area are advised to work the daylight tides until they can achieve a certain feel for the beach. Occasionally, a fisherman can cast his bait any place and come up with a fish, but the more successful surfmen study the shore beforehand. They learn which sections hold interesting bottom formations, the areas which produce better on low water or the locations which hold too little water at the lower stages of the drop.

Opinions vary as to whether a fisherman should pick a known

productive location and fish it for the entire tide or move to another spot if no results are forthcoming after a period of time. Whichever technique is followed, an angler, fishing the night tides, will be required to have some familiarity with the area beforehand if he is to be assured some measure of success. Working deep pockets, sluiceways, troughs or even on top of the bars themselves, in the light of day for bluefish, is an ideal way to ascertain the more productive sections of the shore. Mental or physical notes can be made of the better locations so that they can be located in the dark.

It is understood that a surfman equipped with a buggy has an advantage when trying to cover several miles of waterfront. The walker should not feel slighted, however, for some of the better locations are situated within walking distance of one of the three legal parking lots. This is not taking into consideration Parking Field #6 at Jones Beach, which has been the scene of good fishing directly in front of the east side of the lot. Further east the Cedar Beach, Gilgo and Tobay parking lots should at least be open for daytime fishermen. Unfortunately, access to the Cedar and Tobay lots, at night, is a matter which depends on the mood of the respective security forces.

Certain areas seem to produce fish year after year, other sections, with equally attractive structure, become altered after one season, sometimes after one coastal gale. For many years the Cedar Bar was THE hotspot for the entire region; now it is little more than a playground for surfers. On the other hand, the beach from the Tobay pavilion west for several hundred yards remains a prime area year after year. Additional, recurring hotspots are the site of the old Gilgo Coast Guard Station, the bar slightly west of the Gilgo underpass and the stretch, referred to locally as the Pines, approximately midway between Gilgo and Cedar. Other places pop up from year to year, that is why serious surfmen are constantly striving to keep abreast of the changes taking place within his area.

The opposite extremes of a tide will dictate the method used to fish a beach, as well as just where the bait should be placed. If a wide, relatively flat shelf is a feature of the shore, high tide will naturally see the angler fishing with his terminal rig resting on the flooded shelf. Once the water has receded to a point where the shelf will no longer harbor a wary game fish, the angler is better advised to wade as far as possible onto the ledge in an effort to present his bait in the deep water beyond the breakers. This was the situation two years ago in the Gilgo area but last year conditions were such that deep water could be reached from the beach.

Parallel sand bars, with a trough separating it from the shore is the formation most commonly encountered in the Cedar-Gilgo area. Clever surfmen are alert to changes in the normal pattern of the beach, sluiceways cutting through the blocking bar or possibly the shallow area where two parallel bars angle into the shore, effectively stopping the lateral flow of water through the trough. In most cases, anglers will direct their efforts at placing their baits in the locations where deeper water is found. The rising bars, which divide the hollows running along the shore, is often an area of white water turbulence, caused by the rush of waves from opposing directions. An area often overlooked, but ideally suited for a powerful predator to seize a hapless baitfish or a tidbit wrested loose from the sandy bottom.

In an effort to emphasize the fact that hefty game fish do not necessarily require deep water, let me relate one of the more recent incidents which prove this to be so. Last fall everyone was formed in a line along the outer edge of a shelf, with the water reaching somewhere between mid-thigh and the waist. Everyone that is but a lone angler, who was only equipped with hip boots, effectively restricting him to fishing from the water's edge. His casts reached a point no further than where all the sharpies were lined up. You guessed it: he took his share of fish without being buffeted by the surf and without making the laborious trek through the wash. The primary lesson to be learned from this tale is that an angler should not be hesitant to experiment if the accepted methods fail to produce fish. Sometimes a move of only a few yards can mean the difference between success or failure.

Certain atmospheric conditions seem more fishy than others. During the fall, a low sky, accompanied by a brisk southeast wind usually indicates fish on the beach. Then why has some of the best action taken place under a crystal clear sky with a blustery northwest wind flattening the surf? Even so, if at all possible, an angler should try to play the percentages; in the long run they will result in more fish on the stringer. Few surfmen will argue the fact that the dawn and dusk periods are prime times to pursue his sport. Anglers fishing the daylight hours should delay their supper and hang in there for the twilight period. In a similar thought, those who have fished the night tides would be advised to see what develops with the approach of dawn.

Dawn or dusk, day or night, early autumn is the time anxiously awaited by surfmen after the meager pickings of summer. During these few short weeks, a serious beach fisherman should strive to spend as much time as possible at the shore. The Cedar-Gilgo area has repeatedly shown that it is one of the most consistent producers of quality game fish. It might take a little more effort to fish this lengthy coastline, but the satisfied feeling associated with a successful trip makes it all worthwhile.

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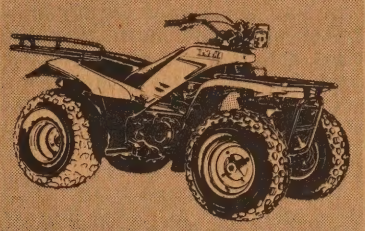

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BASSING IN THE FALL

by John Jollie & Jim White

Fishing for bass in the fall, is very much like spring bass fishing in reverse, but unlike spring bass fishing when the bass are somewhat unpredictable, fall bass are very predictable. They follow pretty much the same feeding and schooling patterns from one year to the next.

If you are a bass fisherman who fishes deep water in the summer for bass, you have already solved half of your fall bass fishing problem. The same points and deep water structure or cover, where you found bass in the summer, you will in all probability, find bass there in the fall.

Try to pick picture perfect days for your bassing trips. Those days when the sun is fairly bright and it is generally comfortable to be out of doors. Don't bother to fish cold fronts that move in, or the day after a cold front passes, for it generally throws the fishing off for a few hours to sometimes days. It also sends the bass to even deeper water and lessens their desire to feed. And besides, there is really no sense to being uncomfortable all day and going home empty-handed at the same time.

On windy days fish those parts of the lake where the land juts out from the shoreline to form bars. Bass tend to hold up on these points waiting for a free meal. It is best to fish these windy points with jigs and deep diving crankbaits so as to get the greatest amount of coverage. Buzz baits are also particularly effective on those very windy days where the bait fish have been pushed up against the shore from the action of the wind and the waves. The baitfish are trapped here and are usually found near or on the surface. For the buzz bait to be effective, it should have either a three bladed spinner or it should have more than one blade. This produces more of a commotion on the surface to better draw attention to the bait that appears wounded and an easy meal.

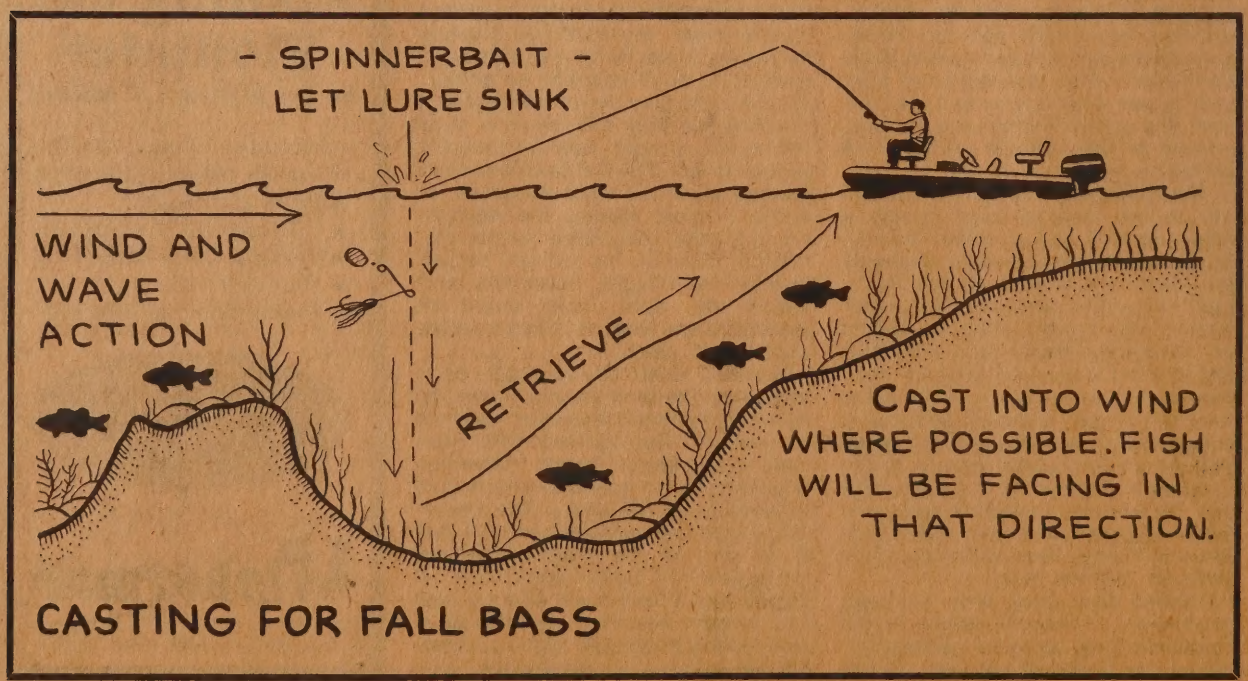
When selecting spinnerbaits, choose the ones that have the larger blades, the type having a #5 Colorado or a #4 or #5 Willow Leaf in combination with a smaller blade. This combination works very well on windy days or when the water is rough. Upon retrieving this will cause quite a bit of vibration underwater and draws the bass in like bees to honey.

On a fall bass fishing outing two years ago in Watermans Lake in Greenville, we started fishing with a wind of 20 knots to our back. We began fishing the dropoffs in the coves where the wind was blowing using half ounce Bushwackers with not too much success. After about an hour, Jim tied on a white 5/8 oz. Strike King Magnum, the type with two blades like we just described. Our hook-ups increased dramatically after switching to the larger bait. We didn't catch any bragging size fish, but we did catch more than enough to make up for the lack of size.

Spinnerbaits of 1/8 to 3/8 ounces are most efficiently used in water from six inches to six feet deep. To fish a spinnerbait deeper, as is often necessary in the fall you may have to use either a 1/2 or 5/8 ounce size, as previously mentioned. If you find that you don't have the larger sizes in your tackle box and the conditions require a heavier spinnerbait, you could add a sliding worm sinker ahead of your bait without interfering with the action or its effectiveness.

Spinnerbaits are manufactured with three basic differences in shape and each has a particular use. We use almost exclusively the pointed type lead head. Spinnerbaits are best used on or near the bottom, around any available structure (sunken trees, boulders, stumps, depressions and humps) and the shape of the pointed type leadhead lets it snake its way past weeds, brush and other obstructions with less snags and hang-ups. They also produce less resistance in the water so that you can further detect even the slightest bump from brother bass.

The other two shapes are the bullet type and the round head or ball head. The bullet head type is just a little less effective than the pointed type and the round type is at a definite disadvantage when fishing near any underwater weeds or brush piles. Its broader profile also causes more



CASTING FOR FALL BASS

water resistance, thus making it harder to detect strikes. One last word on spinnerbaits, try not to use it alone, that is, dress it up with pork chunks or ends of old rubber worms, it will greatly enhance its fish catching ability.

Deep diving crankbaits, such as a Bagley's D Wing B11, which will dive to a depth of 12 feet with the proper retrieve or a Rebel Double Deep Wee R diver, which will run at a depth of 12 to 15 feet with the proper retrieve are also very effective along dropoffs or along the edge of a deep water weed line.

On our boat we have a downrigger which enables us to use just about any crankbait we want and still get it to the proper depth. In the fall our favorite crankbaits are those which have the rattle chambers such as those in the Big-Os and Cotton Cordell Rattlin Spot. It is our opinion that the rattle chambers further draw attention to the bait, therefore increasing the chances of a strike.

Our most consistent method of taking bass is with a Jig N' Pig, which as we all know is a bucktail or a living rubber tailed jig, dressed with a pork frog or pork strip. This one lure has got to be one of the most successful and under-used methods of taking big bass in all of black bass fishing. In order to fish a Jig and Pig successfully, you must understand where the bass are.

In the fall, bass simply do not spend much time in the shallower water. This lure is best used in deeper water where the fish are holding on structure or cover. The jig is effective at any depth that you find the fish, but is most often used on the bottom of the pond or lake, where the bigger fish spend most of their time.

A 1/2 to 3/8 ounce jig, dressed with a #11 Uncle Josh pork frog, crawled slowly along the bottom through weeds and cover is deadly. Jigs and pork frogs come in many colors and sizes and all will probably catch fish at one time or another. It is our experience that a black jig dressed with a black pork frog or a brown jig with an Uncle Josh #11 Crawfrog is devastating at any time of the year. It is believed that the jig and pork frog imitates, not a frog but a crayfish. Crayfish is a prime source of protein for bass. In the fall, the crayfish come out from the brush piles and out from under the rocks to burrow into the muddy bottoms and banks in preparation for winter. This has got to account for the increased success of the jig and pig in the fall.

Here's a little tip we picked up for fishing the pork chunks in cold weather. Because at this time of year the water is much colder, pork rinds tend to stiffen up and lose their life-like appearance in the water. To overcome this, cut 1/2 inch grooves (slices) through the fatty side to the skin, but not through. This adds to the rind's flexibility and maintains a natural action while retrieving. This will keep it from getting hard.

FISHING FOR BLUEFISH

By Al Ristori

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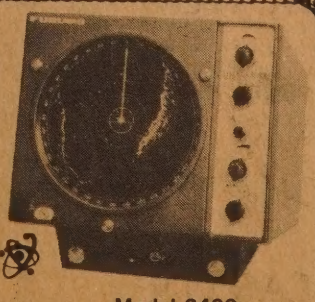

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SOUTH SHORE "TOG"

by Capt. Pete Mikoleski

Though still overlooked by many south shore boatmen, blackfish are beginning to move up in the popularity polls.

It's a mystery to me why more South Shore fishermen don't give our resident population of blackfish the attention they deserve. Granted, we are a lucky bunch because the last few seasons we have been blessed with at least a half-dozen other abundant species of fish to choose from. But I wish I had a nickel for every time blackfishing saved the day for us. It's puzzling because blackfish certainly are delicious table fare, pound for pound will fight as hard as any other game fish, and are very abundant due to the lack of a viable commercial fishery for them. For some, the reason might be that when blackfish are at their peak, the spring and fall flounder runs are also in high gear. I guess they are kinda ugly, but then again fluke or flounder don't win many beauty contests either.

Why we don't target on blackfish more often is unexplainable, but one thing for sure is they have yet to let us down. Tackle need not be elaborate, bait is rather inexpensive and easy to come by, and there are literally thousands of locations all along Long Island where they can be caught by boat and shore-bound fishermen alike.

Any area that contains irregular bottom "structure" is likely to hold a population of blackfish. This structure can either be natural or man-made. Unlike the North Shore which is "Mecca" to most serious blackfishermen, the southern shore of Long Island's bottom is virtually all flat and sandy. If we want to find blackfish on the South Shore we're going to have to concentrate our efforts around man-made "structure" for the most part. These artificial structures include the many bridges and rock jetties that dot the length of the South Shore. Blackfish love to hide in the rocks of the jetties and the concrete bridge abutments where they can find cover and an ample food supply. This structure attracts the growth of barnacles and mussels, and also harbors many other crustaceans that are the main ingredient in the diet of the blackfish. Of course, there are also quite a few natural structures around like offshore wrecks and reefs, and patches of mussel bottom that produce quite well, but unless you are privy to some Top Secret Loran numbers, these spots may be difficult or next to impossible to find for the average fisherman. Naturally, those wrecks or reefs that are easily found like Kismet Reef near Fire Island or the Rota and T wreck off Jones Beach east of the inlet are very easy to find, but rather difficult to fish because of all the attention they receive. They are definitely worth investigating if they are around your neighborhood.

A little later on we will go into more detail about fishing around bridges, but first I want to discuss bait and tackle. For my money conventional tackle is the only way to go unless you need a cast of some distance from shore to reach the spot you want to fish. If fishing from a boat you will probably be anchored right above or right next to the area you want to fish. For this reason you can use a rod that is a little shorter, say around 5 or 6 feet. The rod should have plenty of backbone in the butt section and a medium to heavy weight tip capable of handling lead weights from 4 to 8 ounces effortlessly.

Your reel should be filled with 20 or 30 pound test mono because once these fish are hooked, it's essential to horse them away from any sharp rocks or jagged concrete as fast as you can or the result will be either a cutoff or a snagged fish. If your fish does become snagged the only chance you have is to give him a lot of slack line and hope he thinks it's safe to come out of hiding, in which case you'll have another chance to get him. Be advised that this doesn't always work. Hooks are no problem at all. Just mention blackfish to your tackle dealer and he will give you a "Virginia" style hook which is standard for blackfishing. Ask for a size 5 or 6 which will be fine for the size fish you're likely to run into around the jetties and bridges.

Terminal tackle will consist of a loop on the end of your line with a suitable weight bank sinker (probably between 4 and 8 ounces) to keep you right on the bottom. No finesse here, use as much lead as you need to stay right on the bottom! During slack tide, which is my favorite stage of the tide for blackfish, you will get away with lighter sinkers than you would when the tide is really moving. About 6 inches above the sinker tie an overhand loop and attach one of your hooks. Using one hook is also very important because absolute concentration is necessary to be successful and with the ever-present large number of bergalls to contend with, more than one hook will be inviting them to steal your bait. That's all the terminal tackle you'll need: hook, line and sinker, nothing fancy to snag your line in the rough bottom which invariably will happen while blackfishing.

Most of the time we use fiddler crabs as bait, hooking them through the bottom of the crab making sure the point of the hook comes through the top shell. This makes it easier for the barb to penetrate the tough mouth of the blackfish when you try to set the hook. Green crabs make an excellent bait also, when the top shell is discarded, the legs removed, and the body of the crab is cut into 3 or 4 smaller pieces. This is the bait to use when you suspect the larger bulldogs may be in residence. Clem, a friend of mine who does a lot of his blackfishing over the Kismet reef, says those calico crabs which are such a nuisance while fluke and flounder fishing make a great bait also. Just use them like you would green crabs.

Any bridge or jetty should produce blackfish, although some will produce better than others. Whether you are fishing from a boat or shore let's try and realize that these fish don't belong to one group or the other exclusively. They are there for all of us to enjoy and it's up to us to see that everyone gets their fair shot at them. A case in point would be fishing the Atlantic Beach bridge in Far Rockaway. This structure holds a great number of blackfish all season long. We've caught big blackfish here in the middle of August when fluke or bluefish suffered from lockjaw. Underneath either side of the bridge there is a bulkhead where shore fishermen can easily cast to the first or second group of pilings. I am not sure whether access to this location is exactly legal, but at any rate, there are always people fishing there. The prudent boat blackfishman should realize this and leave those pilings that are the only ones accessible to shore-bound fishermen to them, while concentrating on the others. There are more pilings accessible to boats than there are to casters. A little courtesy and common sense will go a long way but it's up to the individual's own conscience to see the right thing is done. Many times I have seen over-

zealous casters launching 8 ounce lead projectiles into the cockpits of some unsuspecting fisherman. Not to be outdone, I have also seen boats fishing the pilings right up against the shore. Tempers always flare and a word to the wise should be sufficient.

Now when positioning yourself around a bridge two things are **very important**. The first thing is that it is against the law to tie up directly to the bridge. It is also illegal to anchor up in a narrow channel or fairway, which means don't anchor up in the main channel under the bridge. Not only is it illegal, it is **extremely dangerous**. When many of those self-proclaimed captains (and I use that term lightly) ignore the 5 MPH—No Wake signs, the turbulence caused by their wake is bound to smash your boat right up against the bridge supports and severe damage and serious injury could be the result. When we fish the bridges we always pick on a group of pilings on the front of the up-tide side of the bridge (away from the main channel) and try to drop anchor about 150 or 200 feet up-tide of the bridge. Unless there is an abnormally strong current this should leave you enough room to set the anchor. On some days you might have to give yourself more room; other days less depending on prevailing conditions. Once your anchor is secure, it's just a matter of backing off on your anchor line enough to put the stern of your boat within a few feet of the pilings.

Jetties are a little easier to fish. Just make sure you pick one in relatively calm water (without breaking surf) and anchor up parallel to the jetty a safe distance away, if conditions permit. If you can't anchor up parallel to the jetty because of the wind you might consider using two anchors to hold your desired position. Be aware of the stage of the tide and alert for the tidal change after slack water, 'cause then it's time to re-anchor around the jetty or fish the other side of a bridge. If you are one of those anglers who prefer to fish during the week, you'll never find any problems locating a productive piece of bottom. On weekends the better spots may get a little tight during the height of the season, that's when the smart fisherman will seek out his own favorite rock pile or patch of mussel bottom, cause that's all it takes. Even single pilings around docks produce on occasion. We were bailing flounder one October afternoon obviously surrounded by muddy bottom behind Duck Point near the tall channel markers made of wooden pilings. An errant cast near the piling resulted in a medium sized blackfish. Before the day was over a dozen nice blackfish complemented a catch of hefty flounder. This was without even changing our flounder rigs.

If you don't know it by now, you will soon find out that blackfish are extremely hard to hook. It takes a little getting used to, but once you get the hang of it your success ratio will improve dramatically. Now once your baited hook is on the bottom, immediately take up the slack and keep a very tight line. Keep your line tight enough to flex the rod tip a bit. Within seconds (if you are over productive bottom) you will probably feel a very light tap. Ignore this, but be ready. Within a few more seconds if you don't feel anything else, check your bait to see if it was stolen by one of those pesky bergalls. If after that first light tap you feel a stronger "tug" this will be a blackfish passing your baited hook from his front buck-teeth to his second set of "crusher" teeth back in his throat, this is the time to set the hook by hitting him hard enough to cross his eyes. Then you have to keep the rod high and get him away from the rocks. Keep the pressure on and after a few very determined rushes the fish will be all yours. Blackfish do not run far but they do run hard. Pound for pound, I would wager that they could hold their own against a bluefish of the same weight, maybe even outfight him. The important thing to remember when fighting a blackfish is to keep his head turned away from the

(Continued on next page.)

A pair of nice blacks taken from an inshore wreck.

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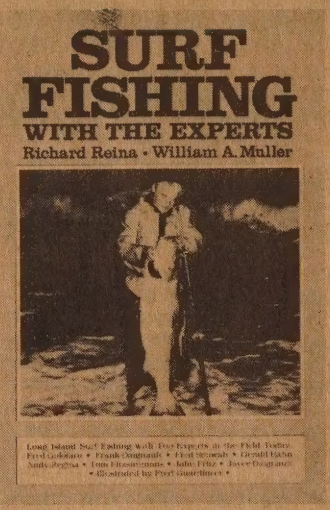

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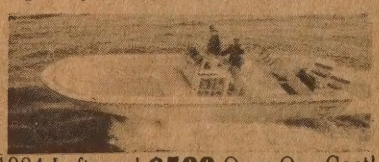

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rocks, and keep the line tight. This is another reason for using heavier mono, it's more forgiving and can absorb the quick lunges of a determined blackfish.

For those of you who prefer to fish from shore and use spinning tackle, I would recommend a stout jetty rod of about 7 feet in length with a beefy tip. Length is not that important as most of your casts will be short ones. I might even opt for a baitcasting outfit over a spinner if you could handle it. In either case I would think a good quality medium weight spinning reel or baitcasting reel would do the trick. Don't skimp on the mono line because you'll need some good quality abrasion-resistant line of 15 or 17 lb. test spooled on your reel.

Any of the jetties that protect the Far Rockaway beaches would be a good place to start. The reason I prefer the jetties in Far Rockaway is because of the calmer surf which is more conducive to the habitat of the blackfish. I don't think you're going to find many blackfish around a mean crashing surf, bass and blues herding baitfish in the wash yes, but not many blackfish. Also keep in mind that the tip of the jetty isn't always the most productive part. Each one has its own personality and fishing the sides of some jetties will be more rewarding.

As mentioned before the Atlantic Beach bridge is the favored hotspot of boat and shore fishermen in that area. The Silver Point jetty that borders Debs Inlet to the east is also a very good bet. Shore access is somewhat limited because you have to enter through the public beaches that lie to the east of the jetty and it's a healthy walk. There is a very productive patch of bottom between the tip of the Silver Pt. jetty and the Gong buoy which can only be reached by boat. You can find that patch of rocky bottom easily enough with a chart recorder, or just anchor up directly in line with the tip of the jetty and the Gong buoy midway between the two. Be advised that some big flounder are also caught here on occasion with worms on the sandy bottom that surrounds the rocks. If there is a heave on or some ground swells evident, believe me, this is not the place to fish at that time. Save it for a calmer day.

The Meadowbrook bridge is another excellent spot. So are the small bridges along Wantagh Parkway. The rocky bottom to the west of the Short Beach Coast Guard Station is very good also from boat or shore as long as there isn't an extremely swift current running. These are just a few areas that deserve some investigation. Don't be afraid to play your own hunches where you know some rock-strewn or mussel bottom exists. Small groups of pilings around a public dock or marina might turn into your very own hotspot. Once you taste some chunked blackfish dipped in a Tempura batter mix and deep fried until golden brown, you'll never pass up another opportunity to fill a cooler with blackfish.

NOVEMBER NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

L.I. CODFISH CONTEST NOV. 17. THE ALL CLUBS ANNUAL CODFISH TOURNAMENT SPONSORED BY THE BAY SHORE TUNA CLUB WILL BE HELD SAT. NOV. 17. ALTERNATE DATE SUN. NOV. 18.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT PETE NOWINSKI (516) 665-0618

THE "*FISHING ADVISORY*" NEWS RELEASE OF THE CONN. DEP'T. OF E.P. AGAIN REMINDS FISHERMEN OF THE NEW BASS 24-INCH LIMIT... AND THAT THESE FISH ARE BEING TAKEN AT THE NORWALK...

...ISLANDS, THE STAMFORD AREA AND AT THE MOUTHS OF THE HOUSATONIC AND MENUNKETESUCK RIVERS.

A SMOOTH DOGFISH CAUGHT AND TAGGED BY A. D'AMATO FIVE MILES EAST OF CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY...

D'AMATO

...WAS RECAPTURED THE NEXT DAY BY K. SCHEER THREE MILES EAST OF AVALON, N.J.

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...OF TODAY'S N.Y. STATE THRUWAY!

A FAT FLAT FLOUNDER CAUGHT AND TAGGED BY R. DIXON IN THE MIANUS RIVER, CO'S COB, CONN. WAS RECAPTURED FOUR YEARS LATER BY S. GWUDZ OFF NEW LONDON, CT.

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THE AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY, BASED AT SANDY HOOK, N.J. HAS A NOV. 10 FIELD TRIP AT PT. PLEASANT BEACH, N.J. WHERE MEMBERS WILL WATCH OFFLOADING OF FISHING BOATS, PROCESSING OF THE CATCH, FILLETTING MACHINES ETC. A SEA FOOD DINNER WILL INCLUDE A TALK ON HOW COMMERCIAL FISHING WORKS.

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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

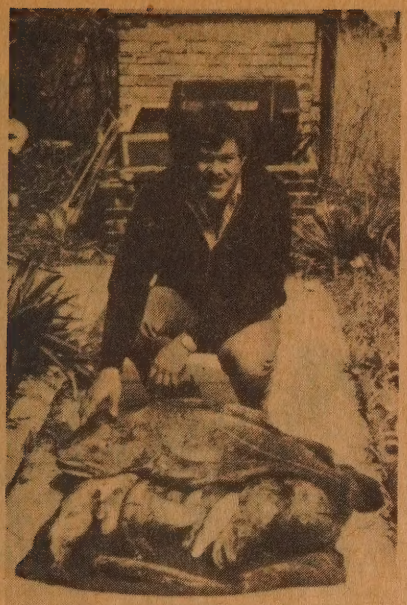
Weather kept many fishermen home missing the most spectacular fishing of the fall season on the East End. There are so many bluefish stacked up that many anglers felt they had died and gone to fishing heaven! Bass catches are more consistent, with larger fish moving in. With warm water temperatures, reports of tuna and fluke persist, while flounder, blackfish and cod catches increase. Anglers should remember that weather can be quite different along the entire 100 miles of Long Island. The rain that fell on the city did not happen at Montauk and the East End over the weekend.

MONTAUK

Captain Richie Rade said that the **Marlin Iv** is doing very well with porgies on its day trips: cathces of 50-60 per man with some fish to three pounds at Block Island. Interestingly enough, over the weekend, the pool was won by a 40 lb. cod. Catches of blackfish, blues, and sea bass are common with the porgies. Friday and Saturday's bluefishing trips were so far, the best of the year. The blues

The Don Frazer party with a nice catch of cod, pollock and hake caught aboard the Montauk charter boat, "Vivienne."

MONTAUK POINT



James Gavers with a pool winning 53 lb. cod and others caught aboard the "Viking Starship" during a Georges Bank trip.

appear to be stacked top to bottom with most fish in the 15-24 lb. range. Bait and jigs work equally as well. Saturday's trip had so many fish that anglers were releasing them, while on Friday, the anglers begged to go home after three hours of fishing, they had had enough!

The **Viking Starship** found a load of cod on Saturday, on a wreck the dogfish hadn't found. The boat returned with dozens of hangers some in the 35-40 lb. range. The **Starship** is now on a winter cod schedule, sailing on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday at 5 am. The bluefishing on Wednesday and Saturdays nights was outstanding, with all the blues, and more, that anyone had the desire and strength to catch.

Captain's Cove Marina reports very good blackfishing at Southwest ledge with cod mixed in. Also suggested to try Shagwong for blacks. Local flounders are picking up, with Capt. Chuck Mallinson of the **Joy Sea** coming in with a nice catch during the week. Most flounder were in the 1½ to 2 lb. range. Cartwright bluefishing is described as excellent, at the Point, the North rips. Bass are building.

Vincent Ranacher of Whitestone and his wife and two children fished Washington Shoals on a **Uihlein's Rental** on Saturday returning with 12 blackfish of five lbs. The family also caught 27 flounders fishing in close at Gin Beach. Henry **Uihlein** reports that flounders in general are excellent, blackfishing is improving daily. Arrangements can be made to rent the larger boats for bass fishing. Call Henry Uihlein for details.

Bass fishing picked up the past week and was especially good over

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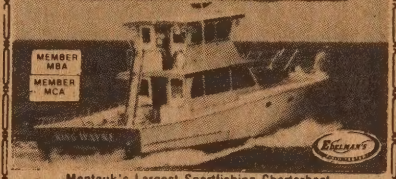

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Joy Brown bested this 732 lb. giant tuna while fishing aboard the Montauk based "Magician." With Joy are Captain Jim Hunt and his son Keith. Photo courtesy of Montauk Marine Basin.

the weekend. Capt. John DeMaio took nine bass, the largest 40 lbs., some in the 20 lb. range, on diamond jigs on Sunday on the **Vivienne**. Loads of blues had to be caught for each bass.

A 37 lb. bass was high weight among 13 bass caught on jigs on the **Montauk** with Raz Fridel on Friday. The best day during the week accounted for 15 stripers. Capt. Albronde was very excited over the number of bluefish ganged up at Montauk right now providing the best bluefishing in years. Although the calendar claims to be well into the Fall, the water temperature is 61 degrees and seems to be holding fish from making their migration. The season shows no inclination of winding down. Weakfish are still around, a few fluke were taken on jigs during the week, while blues of mixed sizes, 2-20 lbs., are everywhere.

Capt. Michael Potts is using umbrella rigs, bucktails, and jigs to catch from 7-15 stripers per day on the **Bluefin I & IV**, with fish ranging from just legal to 25-30 lbs. Three bass this week were well over 30 lbs. A group, headed by Mr. Dietrich of Allentown Pa., landed nine bass on Monday, 15 on Tuesday, the largest fish 36 lbs. Thursday, the Stebbens from Conn. caught 14 stripers, the largest 35 lbs., two 32 lbs. while on Friday a group of anglers from Islip, the Best's, had seven bass, the largest 30 and 36 lbs. On Sunday, jigs worked well taking nine bass several 15-20 lbs.

On Tuesday, Ray Siber caught loads of porgies on the **Caprice**, some to 3 pounds in weight at Gardiner's, with loads of bluefish to 12 lbs. at the Race. Thursday's trip was to Great Eastern, where Capt. Sztork located 4 stripers, top weight 36 lbs. with Artie "The Light". The bass took live eels.

Capt. Fritz Hubner had very good bass fishing on the **Mistress Too** this week, with 27 bass kept. Capt. Hubner reports as many shorts released. The catch included 4 bass over 20 lbs., 5 over 30 lbs., and 2 over 40 lbs!

Peter Casano chartered the **Julie III** on Saturday and loaded up on bluefish weighing from 3 to 16¾ lbs. On Sunday a charter led by Tyrone Lewis filled their freezer with blues. All blues were caught fishing Great Eastern and the Point, according to Captain Ron Grandinetti.

Jack Shocket, Bob Doyle, Greg Maisevick and I joined Captain Mike Bentivegna, Jr. on the **Pronto** for a blackfish trip on Mad Dog Reef. Charlie Nappi had just spooled one of my reels with Berkley XT Tournament line so that "in case" I caught a record fish it would be worth $1,000. The results of the trip: 40 blackfish, mostly in the 3 to 6 lb. range. One 12¼ lb. black, which missed being a world record by 3 ounces, caught on 20 lb. test. One 11 lb. 8 oz. black caught on 16 lb. test which I have submitted for a women's world record on Berkley line. Highlights of this trip will be on my TV show this Friday, along with "White Water Bass Fishing" on the **Bluefin**. (Brookhaven Cable TV, Channel 6, 6PM.)

Jack, Bob, Greg, Captain Bentivegna and I certified the potential IGFA record at the **Montauk Marine Basin** and videotaped the entire procedure, with most of us working my camera. This, of course, will be shown on Cable TV later this winter. I can

make this tape available to interested fishing clubs. Contact me at 928-1347 if interested.

The **Pronto** is now chartering blackfish, bluefish and cod trips. Call Captain Bentivegna for details. Fall reduced prices are now in effect.

Captain Phil Lewis located nine bass for the Brewster charter from Bay Shore on Thursday, top weight 37½ lbs. on the **Adios**, while on Friday, 6 bass were caught. Captain Lewis has a few charter dates available, call him for details on Full Moon bass fishing.

On a "fun trip" (non-charter) aboard the **Mako Express**, Captain Zac's mom, Mrs. Toby Grossman, a senior citizen, caught an 8 lb. blackfish on freshwater tackle loaded with Maxima 4 lb. test line. This has been submitted for an IGFA record for women. She also caught three other fish, including a double header of 5 lb. fish on the same tackle. On board were Capt. Howard Kaiedaisch of the Reel Magic, his wife Lorraine and their son Brett, who caught a 9 lb. blackfish. Outer Shagwong was the scene of the catch.

Captain Joe McBride reports very good bluefishing in and around the Point, with bass consistent now and holding in because of warm weather. Captain Joe of the **My Mate** feels that large bass should begin their move now.

Several fluke were caught on diamond jigs meant for bass or blues, indicating that the warm water temperature is holding the fish in longer than usual. A reminder, Charlie Nappi's fluke tournament runs until December 31st. The big fish may still be at Montauk!

Reliable, eyewitness reports were given to me of "miles of school tuna" as close as 9 miles from Montauk Point, extending for 10 miles. Most were seen by codfishermen. The fish, bluefins in the 40 to 100 lb. range, were seen feeding on vast schools of tinker mackerel.

SOUTH FORK

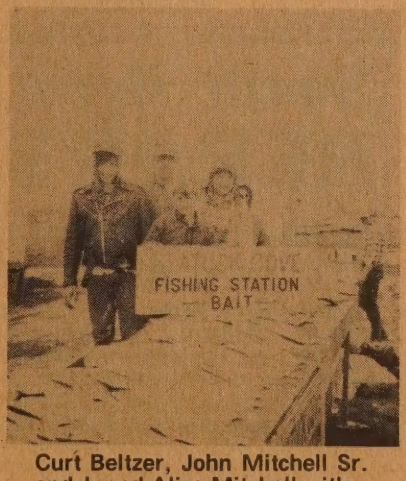
Saturday's blackfishing on Mad Dog Reef on the **Wilhelric** was very good, with a few big fish caught as well as lots of mediums. The pool was won by Ralph from City Island with a blackfish of over 12 lbs. Several 10 lb. or better fish were also caught. On Sunday, the fish were a little picky, perhaps due to warm water. Captain Lach feels that the blackfish are in thick, but reluctant to feed because of water temperatures. Best is yet to come, probably will be blackfishing long after Thanksgiving.

Chris Salb found blackfishing very good. John Worden who keeps his boat at the **Bayview Marine and Tackle** in Sag Harbor, fished Gull Island Sunday afternoon, when the fog lifted, returning with about a dozen blacks to 6 lbs. Flounder seemed reluctant to bite over the weekend, perhaps because of rising water temperatures.

Marina boats from **Noyac Marina** in Noyac found flounder from 1 to 1½ lbs. at the second fish trap off Jessups Neck, and flounder to 2 lbs. at Smith Cove off Shelter Island. Plenty of blackfish were found at the Brickyards and off the Greenlawns at Shelter Island. Average size 2 to 6 lbs.

Jeff showed Thom Speckenbach some of his big blues—to 21 lbs., trolled off Gardiner's Island on Sunday. Others to 14 lbs. were jigged in the same area. Anglers reporting to **Speck's Bait and Tackle**, found the flounder a little slow over the weekend, probably due to warm water temperatures. Best flounder spots to try include Redwood creek, Sag Harbor, and Kelly's Point. There are rumors of bass in and around Shinnecock Inlet. Fog and threatening weather apparently kept anglers home.

Captain Ken Malone had very good wreck fishing on the **Jenny Rose** on Wednesday with at least 30 blackfish per angler. Average size of the fish were 3/4 lbs., however, the pool fish was 6¾ lbs. Platter size porgies and some sea bass rounded out the catch. Because of fog, Captain Malone fished the Peconics on the weekend finding a good number of blackfish with smaller ones stealing bait. On Saturday, Rochell Gillard took the pool with a 6¼ lb. blackfish. No porgies were caught in the Peconics



Curt Beltzer, John Mitchell Sr. and Jr and Alice Mitchell with a load of flatties taken at buoy 43 in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station in Eastport.

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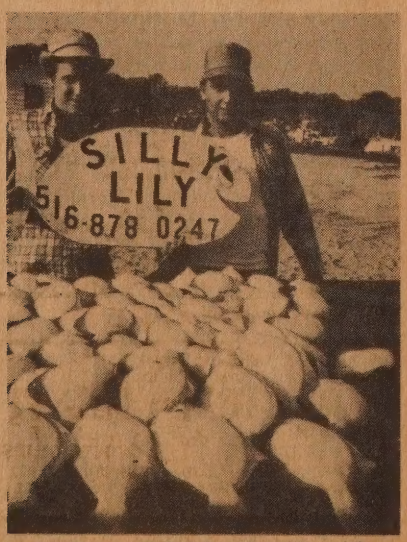
this week. The **Jenny Rose** will soon start codfishing. Call Captain Ken for starting dates.

Fred at **Altenkirch and Son** in Hampton Bays, spoke of lots of bluefish east and west of the Shinnecock Inlet, as well as in the inlet itself. Flounder are starting, however, need a little cold weather to really get going. Try flounder west of the Ponquogue Bridge.

Rental boats from **Corr's Fishing Station** in Hampton Bays did find flounder from 1½ to 2 lbs. fishing near the Coast Guard Station, the Ponquogue Bridge and a few in the Basket. Rental boats who were bluefishing caught as many as 25/40 blues per boat, fish in the 5 to 8 lb. range on the east side of the inlet over the weekend. Most fish were taking jigs. Although the weather was not conducive to offshore fishing in general, Lou took his marina based boat "Alimar" offshore on Tuesday and landed a 200 lb. yellowfin tuna 12 miles off the Inlet.



Walter and Eddie Kotnick with a nice catch of Moriches Bay flatties caught during a fall trip out of Silly Lily Fishing Station in East Moriches.

South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Summerlike weather made for a pleasant weekend for anglers. Flounder and blackfish cooperated well enough to make the weather enjoyable. Decent catches of flounder are being made despite the unusually mild weather while blackfish seem to be lingering longer in the bays. From both bays came continued excellent reports of big blue claw crabs and bluefish remain a good bet for boatmen working around the inlets or along the ocean beaches.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** said that flounder fishing continues to show signs of improvement. He did add that we'll need some cold weather for the fishing to really take off. Catches this past week ranged from 20 to 50 flatties per boat with the largest falling into the 1½ pound class. Action has been from Hart's Cove to Haven's Point with worms and plenty of mussel or clam chum the key to a better score. On Sunday, Joe Sander nailed 45 flatties fishing alone. Same day, Luke Stockwell and Narine Ramlogan combined to put away 50 flatties. Gary told of lots of blue claws being taken in the cove on bunker bait. Catches of a bushel basket per boat have been the norm. All the crabs are big.

Bill Stillwell called to report that he has been picking away at big blues, weaks to 12 pounds and an occasional cow bass in Moriches Inlet. Live blackfish or bunker have been the ticket.

Lorry Mangan teamed with Bruce "The Crab King" Knight and Virginia Abrams last Wednesday. The trio left from **Cerullo's Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** to work the area around buoy 27. Of the many crabs caught, 81 of the largest were kept. Bruce said that the crabbing should remain red hot right up until Thanksgiving. He prefers mackerel bait for his crab traps and drop lines but blue claws are also being taken on bloodworms meant for flounder. Lorry reminded that the days action was put down on film and will appear on her show November 9th.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Dock fishermen have been picking a few flounder and some eels from local docks according to Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue.** They have been doing a very good job on big blue claw crabs as well. Smith Point Bridge has some fair flounder fishing and plenty of crabs while the best bet for blackfish remains the Kismet Reef. Action was hot here on Sunday. Big blues, weaks and some bass on live bunker inside Moriches Inlet.

Al Colban of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** teamed with Howie and Artie Gerschner aboard their 'And How' on Sunday morning. Working bucktails and pork rind near the mouth of Fire Island Inlet at dawn, the trio put away stripers of 40, 30 and 18 pounds. They dropped several other big fish. Blackfishing remains good at Kismet but better on the Ocean Reef. Dr. Mary Ghigno went no further than the

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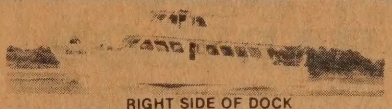
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Robert Moses Pier to land a double header of blackfish. The larger tipped the scale at an impressive 7½ pounds. Mary Ann Spinella stopped by to weigh her 3 largest flounder taken aboard the **Babylon** open boat **Miss Babylon**. The fish weighed 3, 2 and 1½ pounds on the scale at J & R Sports Center. There was some decent flounder action at buoy 5, Heckscher and buoy 2, Dickerson Channel over the weekend. Also a fair amount of action now from the Sayville Dock. Plenty of big blue claw crabs coming from the Sore Thumb Pocket at Oak Beach.

Boatmen trolling umbrella rigs in front of the inlet have been doing well with blues according to Carl Miller of **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore**. Some days the fish were 2 to 3 pounders, other days fish in the 10-12 pound class dominated the action. Carl looked over a big catch of flatties made by one customer on Saturday. The fish which ranged from ½ to 1¼ pounds were taken in Dickerson Channel. Carl also knew of some good scores made opposite Good Sam Hospital. He reminded that Election Day will be the last day of the season and that he will be closing up shop for the winter. He asked that we extend his thanks to all of his customers.

Over at **Captree**, Capt. George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** reminded that the boat's bluefish derby is now worth over $1200. A 21½ pound chopper taken by Ralph Alda is the current leader. Working over ocean wrecks has been producing some big sea bass in the 4-7 pound class and good action with big blues on jigs and bait. Some dogfish are now honing in on the action so the cod can't be far behind.

Capt. Bob Patafio of the **Captree** charter boat **Yankee III** spent Wednesday rounding up a good catch of flounder in the State Channel and on the Babylon Flats. On Saturday the scene switched to the Fire Island Ocean Reef and some offshore wrecks where his party enjoyed a fine catch of blackfish, sea bass and a few porgies. Anthony Compagnino led the way with a very impressive sea bass. His fish tipped the scale at Captree Bait Shop at 6.6 pounds.

Much of the Captree flounder fleet has been working the State Channel near the Babylon Cut and the flats in this area with fair to good results. Some fish are beginning to settle in to the east towards Heckscher and there was some good fishing in Dickerson Channel on the weekend.

Fred Austin, speaking from **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon** reported a 7½ pound blackfish for Ben McGee on Saturday. The fish was taken at Kismet. Also on Saturday, Al Kaich and Bob Harvey aboard the 'Hunky' stopped by with 30 medium sized blues jigged in 30 feet of water south of Robert Moses. Of the flounder fishing, Fred called it fair with some good catches made by those who work at it. He named Bergen Point, Babylon Cut, the north end of Snake Hill Channel and Good Samaritan Hospital as good bets for the flatties.

Over at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, Mike Andreani named Bergen Point, the Babylon Pool and the State Channel between Fox Creek and Grass Island as good flounder bets. Clam chum has been the key to making a good score. Still some blackfish on bay wrecks and reefs but it is much better on the offshore reef. Blue claw crabs are solid in the Pocket behind the Sore Thumb where traps and baited lines are taking some huge specimens. Butterfish or bunker baits accounting for some teen size blues at the NA Buoy as well as 3-12 pound fish at Cholera. White perch are now in some of the local creeks. Bloodworms, small spinners or fresh grass shrimp if you can get it are taking these scrappers.

Ralph Angelillo of **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** said that Lorraine and Brendon Mullins sat on Kismet Reef with a supply of green crabs on Sunday. They caught numerous fish but kept only 9, all of which topped the 4 pound mark. There were some good flounder catches reported over the weekend from Bergen Point and Squaw Island and boatmen using Maryland crab traps are literally destroying the big blue claws inside the Sore Thumb Pocket. On Saturday, Bill Biscardi trolled a mess of small blues off of Robert Moses on umbrella rigs. Ralph added that small bass are being chummed and trolled in the State Channel. Nearly all are shorts.

Good flounder fishing in the bay a couple of days this week reported Bob Rose of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor**. He named the Sewer Plant and Copiague Hole as a couple of the better producing spots. Blackfishing remains good at Kismet with a surprising number of 6-7 pound tautog taken there this past week. Blackfishing on the ocean reef remains excellent whenever sea conditions permit. Blue claw crabs still plentiful at all the local docks and boatmen doing a real job on them at the Sore Thumb Cove. Blues are along the beaches for trollers and jiggers. They range anywhere from 2 to 15 pounds.

On Friday, Charlie Mouton settled into 3' of water off the Lindenhurst Town Dock. Despite pea soup fog he went ahead and loaded up on flounder to 1½ pounds according to Frank Pristera of **Edelman's** in **Farmingdale**. He used bloodworms and mussel chum to take the fish but Frank noted that the fish are reachable from shore and knew that dock anglers have been picking away at the fish. Frank knew of a couple of

blackfish scores made on the Rota Wreck and told of a few school bass being trolled in the State Channel and at the Construction Dock on bucktails and umbrella rigs. Blues are at the inlets and along the beaches for trollers and jiggers.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

The warmth of the air and the sea water continue to furnish the most dynamite gorilla bluefishing of the season, though most party boat fishermen and skippers have had it for the year with blues. However, these bruisers running from 15 to 23 lbs. are seemingly all over the ocean waiting to tear rods out of fishermen's hands. Flounder again due to the warm weather are for the most part small in size and on some days in numbers also. However, there are some days and tides when their numbers leap up. Blackfishing remains fairly dependable and of course the surf fishing has been great.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

A call from **Pop's Fishing Station** in Seaford told of fairly good flounder fishing with best action in the flats. Abnormally high tides during the last two weeks have kept it from being a hot flounder fall so far. However, bluefish up to 10 lbs. have been blitzing around the bay from the Meadowbrook bridge east, chasing bunker. Good numbers of good sized Bccs at night for Mr. Lee and son of Massapequa, to the tune of 3 dozen a trip, best catches being made at Wanser's Cut and Ft. Neck Point where the grass catcher used to be.

According to **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** the flounder fishing continues fair to good but with fish on the small side. Best action has been four corners, Massapequa Cove, Squaw Island and the area of the third Wantagh. Blues throughout Sloop Channel seeking bunker and going up to 15 lbs., right through Sunday. Mixed size blackfish a good item at bridges and wrecks. Bluefish off the beaches with hottest of sands being Field 6, Gilgo, Tobay and Moses for 3 to 6 pounders on tin.

Out of Freeport, we hear from the **Bluefin Fleet** and their catches of blues all week on bait and chum up to 18 lbs. Highlight of the week however was an offshore tuna trip with bluefins from 55 to 125 lbs. taken. Twelve

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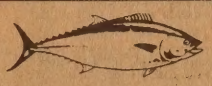
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fish were boated and nine others lost on the runoff. Sy says there are some really large fish in the area. Action has been on butters roughly 60 miles off the beach. He advised that all the remaining '84 tuna trips are booked up solid but he is now taking reservations for '85 tuna trips and may be reached at 516-352-2986.

Aboard the **Star Stream II** which is now fishing for blacks and sea bass during the week and Saturday fares picked away, assembling decent catches of mixed sea bass and blacks with sea bass predominating. Sunday's trip was not quite up to Saturday's but all fares still filled out their buckets. The pool fish was a 7 lb. black while Saturday's was an 11 lb. blue. Anglers toting worms on board also had some porgies. The sea bass are running 1 to 2 lbs.

Aboard the **Capt. Al** on Wednesday one passenger rang the bell with 80

Mary Trimarco with 9½ lb. doormat fluke taken on the Tin Can Grounds aboard the family boat, Proud Mary. Subscriber photo.

blackfish. Some blues were also taken. Right through Sunday it's been a mixture of blacks, sea bass and porgies and blues. On Friday, 27 fares had anywhere from 1 to 3 burlap bags full of giant blues. These bluefish are being taken mostly on bait but some also on jigs.

Aboard the charter boat **Capt. Gary** on Sunday it was flounder for Steve and party from the Bronx. Action was good in Long Creek, Swift Creek and Reynolds on worm and clam. The pool went to Huly Jiminez while Rich was high hook with 35. First timers Allaina Thompson and Annette Taie had their first fish ever.

Aboard the **Captain Lou III** Friday saw Hy Brown of New Hyde Park with 105 keeper flounder and Herb Schwartz of Long Beach had 62. Sunday's high hook on the **CL V** was 33 fish. Friday saw Young Kim with 30 and on Sunday's PM trip Sid Fein of Plainvile had 40.

A call from the charter boat **Nan-Sea** told of Sunday's trip for Nunzio's Deli of Inwood loading up on giant blues to 17½ lbs. on bait at Cholera. When all hands were whipped they finished up the day picking smallish blackfish inside.

From the **Freeport Boatmen's Association** we hear that the **Super Spray II** has been having good ocean bottom action on sea bass and blackfish while the Association's charter boat fleet has been loading up consistently with alligator blues from the JI buoy to Cholera.

Over in Point Lookout we hear from the **Miss Point Lookout** of a sporadic week of floundering due to the extremely high tides. Some good days were mixed in however. Tuesday's AM trip had a high hook of 43 flatties. Wednesday's PM trip had Earl French hoisting 25. Thursday's AM p and PM trip were good. Chris Manning had 23. Saturday PM saw Gloriann Smith of Floral Park, age 6, with the 2 lb. pool winner. Fishing both trips Saturday, Mike Balsamo totalled 68. Fred and Peg totalled 85

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flatties Saturday while on Sunday John Walsh of College Point took a 2½ lb. pool winner. Catches have been best at the change of tide on bloodworms. Saturday night's bluefish charter had a 20 lb. 6 oz. pool fish for Marilyn Zubka.

Aboard the charter boat **Marie III** Saturday's trip for Switzer-Viking worked Cholera with bait and chum and had a leap job on gorilla blues with arms giving out by noon. Joe Forge was high hook with 28. Greg Johansen had 25, Gerry Smith, 24, while Rich Difiore and Joe Cosimano had 41 between them. First timer Bret Johnson managed 11. All fish were from 15 to 22 lbs. Sunday's trip was a slow pick on wrecks and rocks for blues, blacks, sea bass and porgies. The skipper says he has a few November bluefish and blackfish dates still open.

Word from **Ed's Fishing Station** was of fair flounder action at buoys 16, 17, 18 and Cinder Creek. Bill Fisher and Gary McGreavy of Elmont hoisted 24 1½ flounder and 14 blackfish at the Big M and in Swift. The blackfish ran 2 to 6 lbs. on fiddlers. There are still sea bass around to be caught and big blues are taking the limelight at Cholera on chunks and chum. Flounder will come into their own once the water cools.

We were informed by **Scotty's Fishing Station** that they are running a November special for our readers, a boat and motor rental for $20.

From **Beckmann's** in Lynbrook Charlie told of continued good blackfishing at the bridges, wrecks and rocks on fiddlers and green crab. Fair to good flounder fishing depending on the day and area, with fish running on the smallish side. On Sunday Charlie weighed in a 5 lb. 5 oz. sea bass caught at buoy 4 off Debs for Dom Vercillo who is having this fish

Courtney Fernandez and Steve Kearney teamed to put away 67 sea bass and 19 porgies while on a recent wreck trip aboard the Point Lookout charter boat, "Marie III."

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . —0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	1:50	2:10	2:55	3:15	2:40	2:55	4:00	4:10	6:15	6:40	5:30	5:50	1:50	2:15	11/1
FRI.	2:55	3:10	4:00	4:15	3:40	3:55	5:05	5:10	7:15	7:35	6:30	6:50	2:50	3:15	11/2
SAT.	3:50	4:05	4:50	5:05	4:40	4:50	5:50	6:05	8:05	8:30	7:20	7:40	3:40	4:05	11/3
SUN.	4:45	4:55	5:35	5:50	5:25	5:40	6:30	6:45	8:45	9:15	8:05	8:30	4:30	4:50	11/4
MON.	5.25	5:40	6:15	6:30	6:10	6:20	7:05	7:20	9:30	9:55	8:45	9:05	5:15	5:30	11/5
TUES.	6:05	6:20	6:50	7:05	6:45	7:00	7:35	8:00	10:05	10:30	9:25	9:45	6:55	6:10	11/6
WED.	6:40	7:00	7:25	7:40	7:20	7:40	8:10	8:35	10:30	10:55	10:00	10:25	6:30	6:50	11/7
THURS.	7:15	7:35	8:00	8:20	7:55	8:10	8:40	9:10	10:40	11:10	10:35	11:00	7:10	7:30	11/8

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehobeth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	—0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point, north side	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	—0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	—1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 11/1	6:33	4:54
FRI. 11/2	6:34	4:53
SAT. 11/3	6:35	4:52
SUN. 11/4	6:36	4:51
MON. 11/5	6:38	4:49
TUE. 11/6	6:39	4:48
WED. 11/7	6:40	4:47

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 11/1	2:09PM	—
FRI. 11/2	2:36PM	12:19AM
SAT. 11/3	2:59PM	1:20AM
SUN. 11/4	3:20PM	2:20AM
MON. 11/5	3:41PM	3:19AM
TUE. 11/6	4:01PM	4:19AM
WED. 11/7	4:24PM	5:19AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
10/24	10/31	11/8	11/16

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	11:50	5:40	—	6:00
Fri.	12:15	6:20	12:30	6:40
Sat.	12:55	7:00	1:10	7:20
Sun.	1:35	7:35	1:45	7:55
Mon.	2:10	8:10	2:20	8:30
Tues.	2:45	8:50	3:00	9:10
Wed.	3:25	9:25	3:35	9:45
Thurs.	4:00	10:05	4:15	10:25

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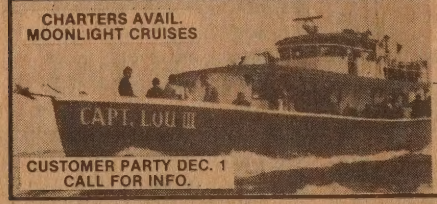
MOONLIGHT CRUISES



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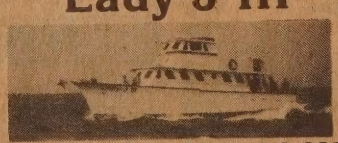

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WATCH FOR WEEKLY FISHING CONTESTS

Bob Matzen and friends with bluefins and albacore caught aboard the Freeport charter boat, "Nan-Sea."

Andrew Barbaccia of Queens displays a blue claw crab that measured 17" from claw to claw. It came from Reynold's Channel. Photo courtesy of Scotty's Fishing Station in Point Lookout.

mounted at Beckmann's.

We learn from **Long Beach Sports Marina** that the station's rental skiffs through Sunday have been having fair flounder and blackfish catches. Big news appears to be the very big blues being caught off Lido, Long Beach and Atlantic Beach on either chunked or live lined bunker, in 10 to 30 feet of water. Some weaks and illegal bass are being trolled at the Tin Can on umbrellas.

Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** in Atlantic Beach told of continued good blackfishing at the ABB and at the Beach 9 through 29 jetties on fiddlers. These blacks are running 2 to 3 lbs. Fair flounder at Duck Point and the area of the Cedarhurst yacht club and their feeder creeks. Blues seem to be all over the place said Al, naming buoy 4, Cholera and off the Rockaways as hot areas with 17 Fathoms being super hot for real gorillas. Those wanting smaller cocktail blues should try tolling to the east in Debs. A live lined bunker accounted for a 28 lb. bass under the ABB this week.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Skippy's Bait and Tackle told of loads of blues along the south shore beaches falling to umbrella rigs with the biggest fish hitting bunker spoons and chunks. Flounder are numerous but small and blackfishing is very decent at the bridges and jetties.

Out of Howard Beach the **Captain Mike** said that while flounder activity showed small fish through Friday, things picked up in size and quantity for Saturday and Sunday with more and larger fish caught. The pool fish went 1½ lbs. and catches ran 20 to 30 a man. Mike said action is just 10 minutes from the dock on mussel and worms.

In Sheepshead Bay, skipper Al Coley of the **Betty W. III** told of an excellent Thursday on giant blues with Saturday and Sunday while not quite as good still making fares arm weary. All the fish are big, from 10 to 20 lbs. on chum, bait and jigs. Areas being worked are 17 Fathoms and Farms.

Aboard the **Zephyr** this week, very good blackfishing was had through Friday mainly at Scotland, fish 2 to 9 lbs. The weekend was a little tougher to the tune of 15 to 25 blackfish a man, still not too shabby. Seagirt and a few wrecks were also hit. Captain Butch said it looks a good blackfish fall with the water still warm and blackfish on every drop nonetheless. Butch classified the fishing as excellent.

Wee Willie at **Mike's Tackle Shop** couldn't get over how hot the bluefishing was and how big the fish were, telling of fish being caught off Manhattan Beach, the Rockaways and even off the Coney Island Pier. Joe Quintano bagged a 33½ lb. striped bass fishing off the Manhattan Beach rocks on a bunker chunk. The **Pilot II** has been slaughtering the blackfish on his Jersey hotspots. Very good flounder fishing in Jamaica Bay and fish good sized. Fishing the east side of Jamaica Bay, Sy Wallens had 27 flatties on blood and sand worms, fish 1 to 1½ lbs.

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FLOUNDER • FLOUNDER
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North Shore REPORT
with Marty Garrell

Warm waters are still producing excellent catches of blackfish and concentrations of bait are keeping blues and some bass in inshore areas. Excellent flounder fishing was the rule to the west. Relatively calm water and warm weather made for a good weekend of fishing for anglers who were out of the new moon tides.

WESTERN SOUND

Jacks Bait on **City Island** told us that locals were into some large flounder with pails full of flatties to 1½ pounds. Depths varied, and sandworms were the bait of choice. Blackfish action around the high tide was very good off Orchard Beach, CBS Tower Harts Island, and Execution Light with green crabs or fiddlers preferred for tautog to 6 pounds. Depths between 20 and 30 feet were best. Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** figured that 4-15 tautog per fare was the norm for a day of fishing off Norwalk in 30-70 foot depths on both deep and shallow reefs. Roughly

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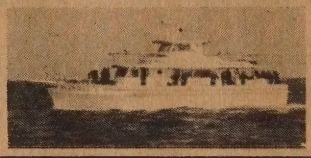

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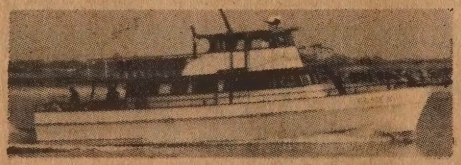

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a dozen fish in the 5-7 pound class came over the rails every day.

Joe Ferrara of the **Sea King** said that catches of tautog were in 70 feet of water on Greens Ledge, Buoy 24C, and around Norwalk in the strong weekend tides. Although some fish went 8 pounds, the 15 fish per person norm last week dropped to 5 or less over the weekend. Still, away from the moon this week, things should improve.

Pete Pearson of the **Klondike Viii** out of **New Rochelle** had a "real good" Sunday on Norwalk tautog in 45-60 feet of water for 60 fares.

Phil Nasi of the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** told us that Artie Miller and Everett Johnson were still chunking for bass with much success. Three of their keepers last week went 7, 15, and 17 pounds. There were still big bluefish in harbors, and Shore Road, Oyster Bay was a good bet. A couple of late weakfish of 9 to 11 pounds hit the scales as well, and one plug fisherman brought back a near 50 bass from Montauk.

Both the **Klondike** and the **Apache** will be sailing through the weekend after Thanksgiving, while the **Sea King** expects to finish on November 18th.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Tom Bowman at **Bowmans** in **Northport** said that the word was simply "blackfish"! Bowman himself had 15 fish in the 5-7 pound range off Eatons Ledge in two hours of fishing around Buoy 11C. There were also some good fish around Buoy 28 and out to Buds Reef. Ten ounces of lead was the key for much of the fishing and green crabs were best bait. Worm fishermen around black can 13 had a few bass, and small flounder were around the town dock. The OB was still producing 4 pound blues for those who had not gotten their fill of cocktails and choppers.

George Valentine at **Four Winds** highlighted some big blues in Cold Spring Harbor, including one 18-7 gorilla taken by John Stone on a live bunker. Nick Dunatov on the **Ever Ready** had a 9 pound blackfish and didn't even win a pool. Billy Collins is sticking with the tautog, but he may give the late bass a shot, too. The keeper ratio with umbrellas is only 1 fish in 8 while the ratio on worms runs 3-5.

Eileen at **Greenlawn Sport** said that "basic blackfish" was the color of the season with some larger flounder in 30 feet of water off Eatons as well. The Mill Dam Bridge in Centerport had lots of small flatties to ¾ pounds.

Some very good blackfish were reported by the **Caraftis Fishing Station** in **Port Jefferson**. The great last stand of porgies to 3 pounds had petered out, but there were a few fish left. Tautog were around Old Field where 8-10 ounces of lead had to be fished close to the buoy with only 4-5 ounces closer to the shore. Best depths for the rockpiles were around 30 feet.

Sutlers spoke of good flounder action off Cedar Beach with cocktail blues off Buoy 11 on Saturday. The **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** was happy with loads of blues all the way from Mount Sinai to Wildwood, but the fish were small, in the 1½ to 3 pound class. Those who plugged, drifted eels or fished chunks also had some bass with many shorts. Bait was abundant from Wading River Beach to Cedar Beach.

Rick Koenig weighed a 14½ pound linesider at **Dicks** in **Mount Sinai** on Sunday morning, and Dick Brown advised using Rebels with teasers as well as chunks. Some 25 percent of the bass in the catches might be keepers. Flounder were "anywhere you put a line." **Ralph's Fishing Station** boasted of excellent tautog fishing anywhere west of the Port Jeff Jetty in 35 feet of water and the beach side of the Port Jeff Inlet had flounder as well. Ralph's boats will be in the water until Thanksgiving.

NORTH FORK

Ace Cottral at the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** in **Southold** expects to be selling bait until the weekend before Thanksgiving. While there are no rental skiffs in the water, private crafts are working for tautog north of Plum and off Mulford and Orient. Flounder on both sides of Orient were picky and small, but there were nice porgies to 1½ pounds in front of the old Orient Station. Drifting Pipes Cove and anchoring in Dering Harbor was worthwhile for modest flatfish catches, too.

Charlie Caraftis at the **Mattituck Fishing Station** reported fantastic blackfishing with 15-20 tautog per boat despite the strong tides off the Firing Range and the Beachcomber. One slugger of 10 pounds was weighed, but 3-6 pounds was the norm. Porgies were still on tap off Coopers. A few of the private boats were picking at blues to 8 pounds with jigs to the east. The **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** had six rentals Sunday with porgies and blackfish featured. The Petersens will be open until around November 15th, and the Caraftis's expect to get one more weekend out of the rental season.

Ed Kopack at **Warrens** in **Aquebogue** feels that the tautog around Mattituck Inlet are the best bet in the area and he's got greens and fiddlers on hand for late season private boats.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** says that cloudy day fishing in the Gut will still produce bass in the teens as well as bluefish. One 30 pound linesider came from the beach as well. White informed us that the **Peconic Star** was

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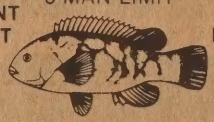
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showing mostly tautog now and that the **Brand X** was pounding at big tautog consistently. Despite the moon tide, there were 5 bulldogs above 8 pounds pulled on Saturday aboard the latter and duly weighed by White. Fish and anglers were as follows: Phil Cook-8.12, Bob Ritardo-9.0, Ed Kennedy-9.8, Sal Lengua-11.0, and Tom Gilbert-11.12.

Dave Brennan called to say that the **Peconic Star** had some super blackfishing off the bow and stern over the weekend with many fish in the 8-and-up class. The porgies had declined to 20 or 50 per day, but it was hard for anyone to concentrate on scup with tautog anglers screaming for the net. Fishing was in 70-130 feet of water with 8-14 ounces of lead. Kathleen Raycroft, young daughter of Marie, who decked the biggest 'tog of the season two weeks ago, proved she was a chip off the old block with a 10 pound pool winner, her very first blackfish.

John Rainis on the **Blue Albatross** told us that he had a few giant blackfish in the 12 pound class Sunday, including Frank Welti's 12.12, on a charter for the Hicksville Fishing Club. One angler even pulled a doubleheader of 8 pounders! Clark Bellows had a good Friday on the **Prime Time II** with a 9 pound blackfish the best of the day. Thursday was tough on the new moon tide.

The **Prime Time** will be sailing on Election Day as well as the Wednesday-Sunday schedule this week. The **Brand X** will be running through the 17th, while the **Peconic Star** expects to sail through the 25th. The **Blue Albatross** is looking at a possible last date of December 1st.

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

While the past week's weather was anything but fall like, surf action held up quite well in many areas despite the warm weather. Out in Montauk, any number of big bass were taken through the past week although the number of casters who failed to score far outnumbered the lucky ones. Still the week's tally was an impressive one.

According to Johnny Kronuch, of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in **Montauk** green Gibbs Needlefish plugs accounted for the majority of the fish. Most of the action was centered around False Bar and North Bar with very few fish taken between Jones and the Light. A few fish did come from the rocks along the Point's south side. A look at the tally sheet

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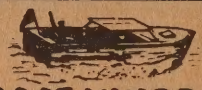

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showed Fred Mysliwiec with cows of 44.14 and 32 pounds; Joe Bragan had fish of 40, 35 and 33 pounds; Dennis O'Connel, 35; Jim Gregory, 37; Steve Bunai, 38 and 17; John Hanson, 42.14; Joe Guhanick, 35.6 and 35.10; Bill Carilli, 34 and 33; Frank McAnn, 30 and 27; Ken Kasan, 36.8; John Fritz, 36; Guy Dietz, 28; and Richie Brown, 24 and 23 pounds.

Daytime action at the Point is still producing some bluefish but not with the consistency of prior to Hurricane Josephine. Still there was good action with blues up to 12 pounds on a couple of occasions this week behind town and near Hither Hills. Some of the most consistent action has been further west along Amagansett.

Back up Island, most reports received here indicated a slow week in the Jones Beach area. Just the opposite was true for casters who spent their time between Robert Moses Parking Field 4 and Democrat Point. Action here was hot all week although much of the action was confined to small blues. Catches of up to 50 per man were not unusual from Monday thru Wednesday. Action over the weekend became picky but fish were caught. A few weaks and several school bass up to 15 pounds were culled from the blues during the week. Larger fish seem to dominate the action at Democrat where 10-12 pound blues and an occasional larger fish provided much of the action. This was particularly true on Friday afternoon when I had 'Big Steve' Yakacki and Johnny C. along on a surf charter. The pair wore themselves out catching blues on Ava 17 and 27's fitted with red tubes. For much of the time the big fish dominated the action.

On Saturday afternoon, Mark Reuschel and Phil Holiwinski found the same school of fish across the way at Cedar Beach. They did a number on 10-12 pound choppers using Pencil Poppers and put away a pair of legal school bass as well.

Confirmation of action with big blues at Cedar and Gilgo came from Z **Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** and **Augie's** in **Babylon**. A reminder too from Augie's that they are stocked with a complete line of Gibbs and Super Strike plugs including the new Super Strike plastic Needlefish which should be on the shelves this week.

Over at **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** Al Colban put Francisco Valdes on the phone Monday morning. He had just weighed a 35.9 pound striper that he had taken on a Hopkins Sunday evening at Tobay. Don Zisek stopped by the shop on Friday to weigh bass of 9, 11, 13 and 16½ pounds. They were imported from Montauk where they were taken on Needlefish plugs from under the Light.

Bluefish action along the Moriches shore suffered from a lull this past week according to Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. Just a fish here and there but there was a sprinkling of bass action at mid week. Several reliable sources reported that

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Tom Forbes of Patchogue Fishing Club nailed bass of 20 and 40 pounds Tuesday night and had another pair of big fish Wednesday night as well. All were taken on 5½ inch Rebels. Bruce Froh bounced a bucktail from the inlet rocks to nail a 15 pound striper early Saturday. Paul did know of very good action with small blues to the west of Shinnecock Inlet.

A call from Dr. Phil Ragone confirmed this activity. The good doctor fished Ponquogue Beach Sunday morning and reported loads of 3-6 pound blues being taken by casters dragging tin and tube combos along the bottom. The Ava 27 was particularly hot according to Phil.

Up on the North Shore, continued reports of decent school bass action with some fish up to 15 pounds came our way this week. The best of the action still seems to be centered between Smithtown Bay and Rocky Point with Rebels, Hellcats and RedFins accounting for most of the fish along with Red Gill droppers.

Al Rutherford is "looking" for some help after spending the weekend in Montauk. It seems that on Saturday night while working near Ditch Plains someone in a cream colored Cherokee who did not realize Al was in the water, thought they had found a surf bag left behind. Al asks that the party please at least return the eyeglasses that were in the bag as they are very expensive and he is having a tough time without them. Al can be reached at 516-623-3036 or drop him a line at 43 Montauk Ave., Merrick, NY 11566.

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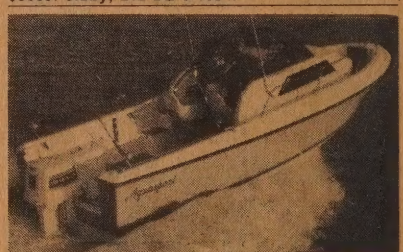

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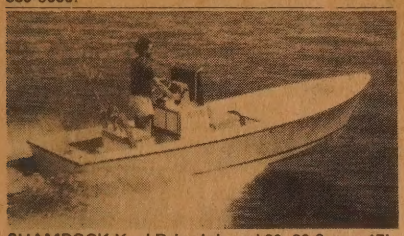

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1965 36' Steel/Lobster-work, GM 6/71
1978 26' Glass Grover, 85 hp Perkins diesel. Mint
1960 42' Bolger Canyon Fisherman, twin Cummins. Loaded.
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1967/1981 58' Wood Stern Trawler, GM 12/71, split hyd. winches. Fishing Daily
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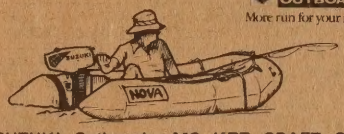

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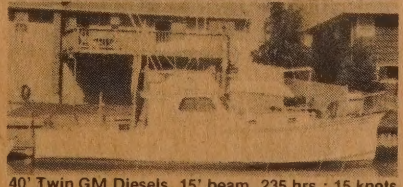

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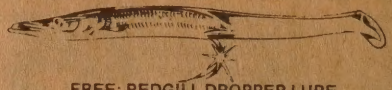

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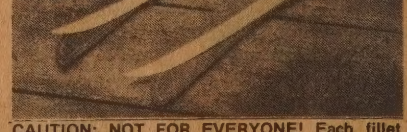

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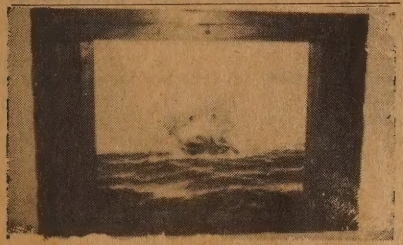

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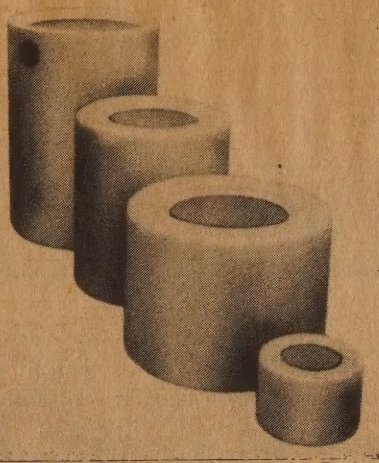

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